Comelec blinks, approves Namfrel quick count

Story on PAGE A2

GMA, solons rally behind De Venecia

By Cynthia D. Balana, Juliet Javellana and Carlito Pablo

JUST when he took the most risk to lose his leadership of the House of Representatives, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. secured it.

And the accolades, including from President Macapagal-Arroyo, have come thick and fast for De Venecia day

GMA/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SC ruling: It's final, Amari-PEA deal void

THE SUPREME Court, affirming its May 6, 2003 ruling, yesterday declared void the PEA-Amari deal concluded during the Ramos and Estrada administrations. The high court denied a second motion for reconsideration from the deal's joint venture partners, the Public Estates Authority and the Amari consortium, involving the sale of some 750 hectares of reclaimed and submerged land in Manila Bay.

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph   Wednesday, November 12, 2003   ★★   60 pages / 5 sections / vol. 18 / no. 337   P15   website: www.inq7.net

Anti-coup force revived

Air, sea, land support for Metro command

By TJ Burgonio

THE MILITARY has reactivated a special command to guard Metro Manila against attacks by coup plotters, the extremist group Jemaah Islamiyah and communist rebels.

Gen. Narciso Abaya, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, has named Maj. Gen. Alberto Braganza, erstwhile commander of the 7th Infantry Division in Nueva Ecija, as chief of the National Capital Region Command. The command has 6,000 men.

"This will be a command that will handle all major services," Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, chief military information officer, said. "There will be sea, land and air components, and the required service support units that would help the unit to be effective in its mission."

The command is also tasked with preempting attacks in nearby areas in Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog.

Abaya recalled that the general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, which is tasked with coordinating nationwide operations, was forced to take charge of the operations against the soldiers in the absence of a dedicated anti-coup unit.

"We saw the need as a result of the Oakwood (incident). It was the GHQ which was orchestrating the operations, and that highlighted the fact that there was a need for a unit that should be taking care of various threats in Metro Manila," the AFP chief of staff said.

"You can just imagine if there were operations in other areas during the Oakwood incident. That would have been difficult. We felt that there's a strong need to activate what used to be a unit before," he added.

"It would serve the same purpose as the other area commands. As we all know, the threat of terrorism and even

ANTI-COUP/ A21

PEACE ON EARTH

In a stellar role in keeping the peace, the Philippine National Police no matter if not infrequently ill-starred in current events prepares its headquarters in Camp Crame for the season of peace, which is devoutly to be wished for in this country. SPO1 Romeo Opida puts the finishing touches on a symbol of the season, a Christmas tree of stars. JOAN BONDOC

'Brat Pack' learns lesson: The power of public opinion

By Carlito Pablo and Armand N. Nocum

IT WAS a learning experience for the so-called "Brat Pack." But what lessons did the young politicians of the Nationalist People's Coalition, who spearheaded the campaign to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., actually learn?

Judging from their experience in Monday's marathon session: patience, the importance of political will, and the need to master parliamentary procedure.

"I am young. I can wait," Rep. Michael John Duavit (NPC, Rizal) said in his speech explaining his vote.

With his youth, he can wait for the time when "political will" and not public opinion determines the course of affairs of the nation, said Duavit, 33.

If there was one thing he learned from the time the Davide impeachment complaint was filed on Oct. 23, Duavit said, it was the power of "public opinion."

"Public opinion is king," he said, noting that adverse public opinion was the one that killed the Davide impeachment.

'BRAT PACK'/ A8

Only special priests for sin of abortion

By Blanche Rivera

MOTHERS who aborted their babies, their spouses who supported the decision to do so, and doctors who perform abortion cannot not just go to any priest for confession.

According to San Fernando Archbishop Paciano Aniceto, Catholics can only confess their sin of abortion, which he described as a "heinous sin of great gravity," to bishops or special priests who could absolve them of their sin.

He said this was done to discourage abortion.

Aniceto made the clarification during the launching yesterday of the Rosary for Life campaign in the Philippines to stop the passage of what the Catholic church believes are bills seeking to legalize abortion.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines is campaigning against House Bill No. 4110 (Reproductive Health Care

ONLY/ A21

After impeachment storm, Lakas girds for fallout

By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana

AFTER the impeachment storm, comes the political fallout.

The ruling Lakas-CMD party got the House of Representatives early yesterday morning to abide by the Supreme Court decision on the Davide impeachment, but it may have done so at a steep price.

The Nationalist People's Coalition, which spearheaded the campaign to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., is reconsidering its alliance with the ruling Lakas-CMD party.

"The alliance is under review. Everything is very fluid," Rep. Harry Angping (NPC, Manila) said.

With six months to go before the May 10 elections, a withdrawal of the NPC, the second largest party in the House, from the alliance and a shift of its support to another presidential candidate would likely hurt the electoral chances of the Lakas standard bearer, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Asked about the 2004 elections, Angping said: "It depends on the candidate."

Reminded that President Macapagal had already declared her intention to run for reelection and that Lakas counts on the NPC as a political ally, Angping said: "Officially, we (in the NPC) have no position yet."

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., party president of Lakas, conceded that "some" may have been hurt by the defeat of the Davide impeachment.

But De Venecia remained upbeat that all

AFTER / A20

WAITER! THERE'S A CONDOM IN MY SOUP!
YUCK!

Woman sues resto for condom in soup

LOS ANGELES—A woman is suing a US restaurant chain in California after finding a condom in her clam chowder, reports said Monday.

Laila Sultan, 48, discovered the rolled-up item that

WOMAN/ A21

Ping snubs road show: It's designed for FPJ

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENTIAL aspirant Sen. Panfilo Lacson is sitting out the provincial road shows being sponsored by the united opposition as part of its process to choose its standard-bearer in next year's elections.

Lacson yesterday said the shows were "designed" solely to benefit movie star Fernando Poe Jr., his rival for the nomination.

He said he would join the tour only if it was clear to him that the united opposition has indeed come up with a selection process for the candidates it would field in the May elections. As of now, he said, there was no such process to speak of.

"They're reserving the slot of standard-bearer for FPJ (Poe)," the senator said, referring to Sen. Edgardo Angara and Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III. "It's obvious from the start that they only intend to present their candidates via the media process."

Lacson said he was not appearing in the next road show in Legazpi City on Thursday. Anyway, he said, he had to go to Iloilo for a speaking engagement.

The senator said he had been moving around the country on his own to accept invitations from various groups and organizations.

Last week, Lacson skipped the first road trip in Baguio City due to a prior engagement. The activity was supposed to feature the

PING/ A20

SWAT MAMAMATAY TAO! KMU
VILLARUEL, MURENDER PINATAY NG SWAT! KMU
NAGLALANTAD NG KORAPSYON SA GOBYERNO, DAPAT PAKINGGAN HINDI PIN
SWAT

LIKE NINOY, Frederick Villaruel, son of Panfilo Villaruel, eulogizes his father during a two-hour prayer rally organized by the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) in front of the Aquino memorial in Makati City and attended by militant groups. At right is Copa's point man, Boy Saycon. *(Story on Page A22).* ERIK ARAZAS

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will be cloudy with rains. Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Palawan. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/12/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FrontPage
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Imelda faces arrest

By A. Nocum and A. Papa

GOVERNMENT prosecutors yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to cancel the bail, travel bonds and order the arrest of former First Lady Imelda Marcos for extending her travel abroad without the approval of the anti-graft court.

Prosecutors said her failure to return to the country last Oct. 26 showed that she had "willfully and openly defied the resolution of the honorable court."

The court earlier approved Marcos' travel to the United States, France, Portugal and Italy."

Her lawyer Roberto Sison told the INQUIRER that Marcos would definitely arrive today from London and would go straight to the Sandiganbayan as required in her travel authority.

Today is the last day given to Imelda for her trip.

Marcos was earlier confined at the Cromwell Hospital for dehydration after she fasted in preparation for the medical tests conducted on her.

Sison said they would also present a medical certificate to the courts issued by Imelda's London doctors led by Virginia Moonie of Cromwell Hospital, her knee doctor Dr. David Sweetnam of Wellington Hospital and her New York eye doctor Dr. William Boozan.

Comelec blinks, OKs Namfrel quick count

By Martin P. Marfil

AFTER earlier disallowing the National Movement for Free Elections from conducting a quick count in next May's national elections, the Commission on Elections backtracked yesterday.

The poll body declared that Namfrel could now participate in the counting of ballots, just a day after President Macapagal-Arroyo was quoted as saying that she hoped the Comelec would let Namfrel conduct a quick count.

Instead of a quick count, however, the citizen's group would do a "vote count," according to Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos.

The difference is apparently only a matter of semantics.

Interviewed after the Comelec conducted a closed-door hearing on Namfrel's petition asking to be accredited to do a quick count, Namfrel executive director Telibert Laoc said that the Comelec did not want to use the term "quick count" as it implied that the poll body was "slow."

Abalos said no resolution on Namfrel's role has been issued yet but that there was an initial agreement. "We will know on Thursday," he said.

"Operation Vote Count" system to the commissioners.

Laoc said that the Comelec seemed amenable to letting Namfrel conduct a vote count as long as it reports the source of its data, the percentage of precincts counted and other details.

"They did not say they will accredit us ... we cannot second-guess them," he said.

Last month, the Comelec approved Namfrel's application to help in the education and training of election assistants, but did not accredit it for the conduct of a quick count.

Abalos said to allow Namfrel to do so would result in confusion as he claimed the poll body now had "poll computerization in place" and was capable of carrying out a quicker counting operation.

"We cannot accredit Namfrel because it cannot do it faster than us," Abalos said then.

Namfrel's quick count, conducted in 20 elections since 1986, has always been ahead of the Comelec results by two to three days.

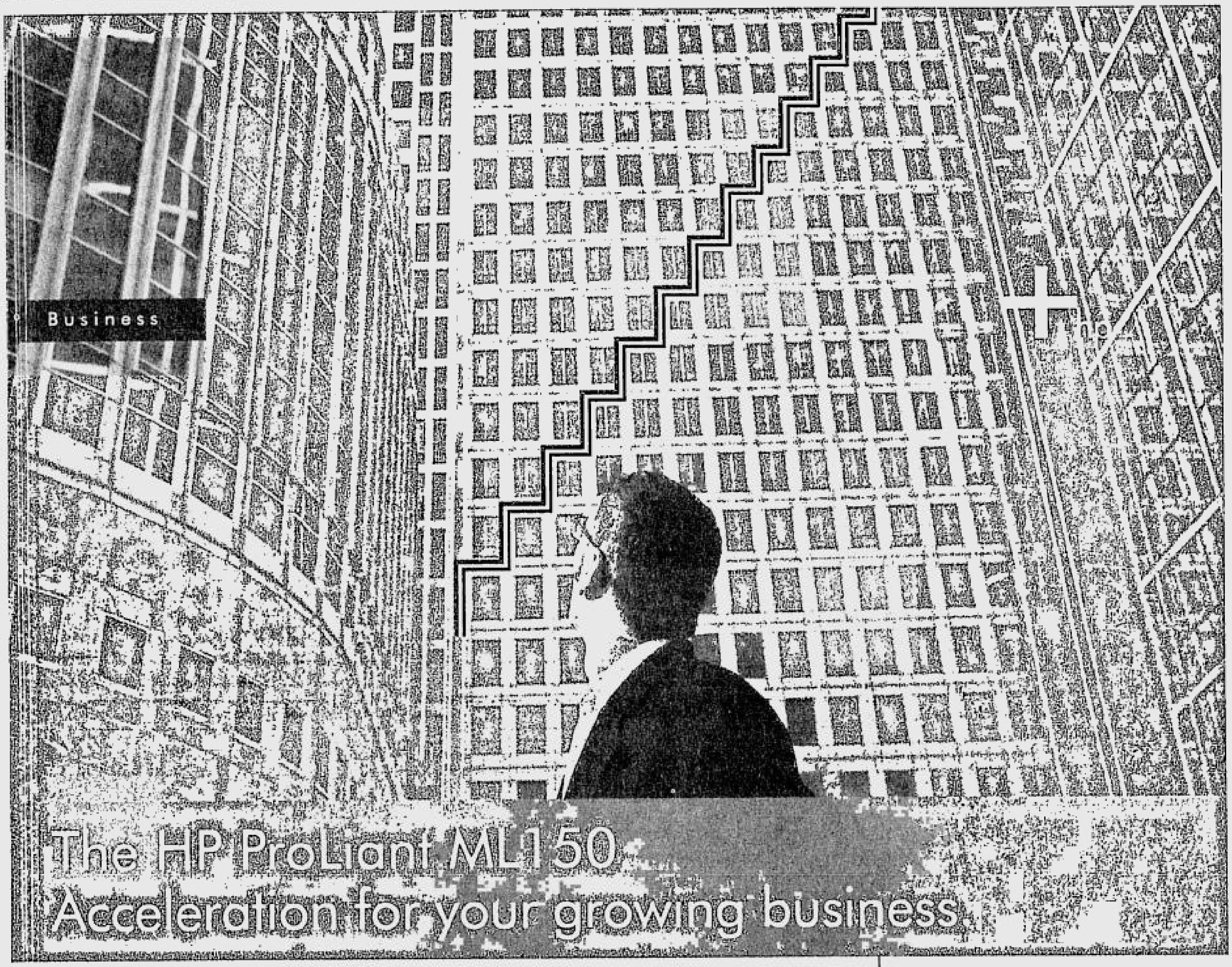
Critics have argued that if the Comelec were 100-percent automated, there might arguably be no need for a quick count. Others said that the reason for accrediting an independent body to conduct a quick count was for the purpose of making the results of the elections credible than anything else.

In another development, the Comelec said it was extending the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy, originally scheduled from Nov. 12 to Dec. 15, to Dec. 15 to Jan. 2.

The poll body said that only 55 percent of Metro Manila voters filed applications for registration and validation.

Out of an expected 5.263 million new voters expected to register, only 2.942 million filed applications.

The deadline for registration for first-time voters and transferees ended on Nov. 9. Those wishing to validate their registration have until Dec. 12 to do so.



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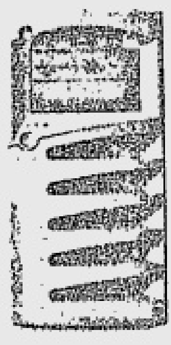

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Computerized 2004 polls still possible—Abalos

By Martin Marfil

THE COMMISSION on Elections is at a loss whether to hold automated elections nationwide or just a "hybrid" system of manual and computerized elections in selected areas.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos said yesterday that this will depend on whether the law mandating nationwide computerized elections would be amended or not.

A bicameral oversight committee earlier issued a resolution limiting automation to only certain areas, a resolution which the Comelec thought was binding.

Yesterday, Abalos said that a bicameral oversight committee resolution does not have the power to amend a law, thus raising the possibility that nationwide automated elections could still be held in 2004.

With about 2,000 counting machines that can handle 20,000 ballots each, Abalos is optimistic that Comelec can conduct computerized elections nationwide.

He explained that the law mandating nationwide computerized elections could only be amended through a resolution by a bicameral assembly.

"If it was just an oversight committee resolution, I don't think it would have the force of amending the law. But if it is a bicameral resolution (of the) bicameral assembly, it has the effect of amending the law," Abalos said.

Abalos there was still a chance for nationwide computerized elections, if both chambers of Congress still change their minds.

However, if the resolution (of the bicameral assembly) had been signed, the chance would be slim, he said.

But National Movement for Free Elections secretary general Guillermo Luz said a law cannot be amended by a committee resolution.

Abalos said the decision whether to hold 100 percent computerized elections or not would have to be out by Nov. 30 since Comelec would need time to prepare for the elections.

TAUFIK RIFKI: Young Javanese came to Mindanao in the late 1990s with friends for military training. EPA

Indon suspect a trainer in JI camp in South

JAKARTA—An Indonesian who has been detained in the Philippines since October was a trainer in a military camp run by the most feared Muslim militant group in Asia, a top Jakarta detective said on Tuesday.

Manila captured 23-year-old Taufik Rifki last month, saying he was a finance and liaison officer of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI).

The Southeast Asian Islamic group is blamed for several deadly attacks in the region including the Bali bombings and is thought to have close links with al-Qaida.

The head of the criminal investigation department said the young Javanese came to the southern Philippines in the late 1990s with friends for military training.

"They first went there to get military training at the Udaibiyah military camp in Mindanao," Erwin Mappaseng told reporters, referring to one of JI's bases in southern Philippines.

"However, (Rifki) then became a trainer there, studying maps in connection to military exercises," he said after returning from a trip to the Philippines with an investigation team. He declined to give more details.

Manila authorities have accused Rifki of being involved in a series of bomb attacks in Mindanao, where the Philippines has been fighting Muslim rebels for more than three decades. One of the blasts, at a packed shopping mall in General Santos City last year, killed 15 people and wounded 70 others.

The biggest attack blamed on Jemaah Islamiyah so far was the October 2002 nightclub blasts on Indonesia's resort island of Bali that killed 202 people, most of them foreign tourists. *Reuters*

Joker warns of yet another divisive issue

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE DUST has yet to settle on the Davide impeachment issue that brought the country to the brink of despair, and another conflict is already on the horizon.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday warned that the country may be plunged into another constitutional crisis should the Senate proceed to tackle the proposed amendments to the Constitution after noting that a committee report sponsored by Sen. Edgardo Angara recommending Charter change through a constitutional convention was calendared for debate yesterday.

Noting how the Senate and the House were diametrically opposed on the mode of Charter change to be adopted, he expressed apprehension that Cha-cha could pit the two chambers against one another so soon after the "raging bulls" in the House of Representatives forced through the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

"We have just survived the trauma of the Davide impeachment which was so divisive, and a day after we have disposed of it, we will now plunge head-on into another equally-divisive issue, Cha-cha," he said.

Arroyo demanded that Senate leaders explain why the Angara Cha-cha resolution was written in bold letters in the Senate's agenda yesterday. He was expected to bring up the matter during a plenary session later yesterday.

The House had voted earlier to pass a resolution seeking to constitute Congress into a constituent assembly to make changes to the nation's fundamental law. The move fizzled out in the Senate after majority of the senators expressed preference for the constitutional convention mode.

But Angara, the chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, managed to secure enough votes to bring the matter before the plenary today.

"The House and the Senate will again be at loggerheads, having diametrically opposing views of the mode to amend the Constitution," Arroyo said.

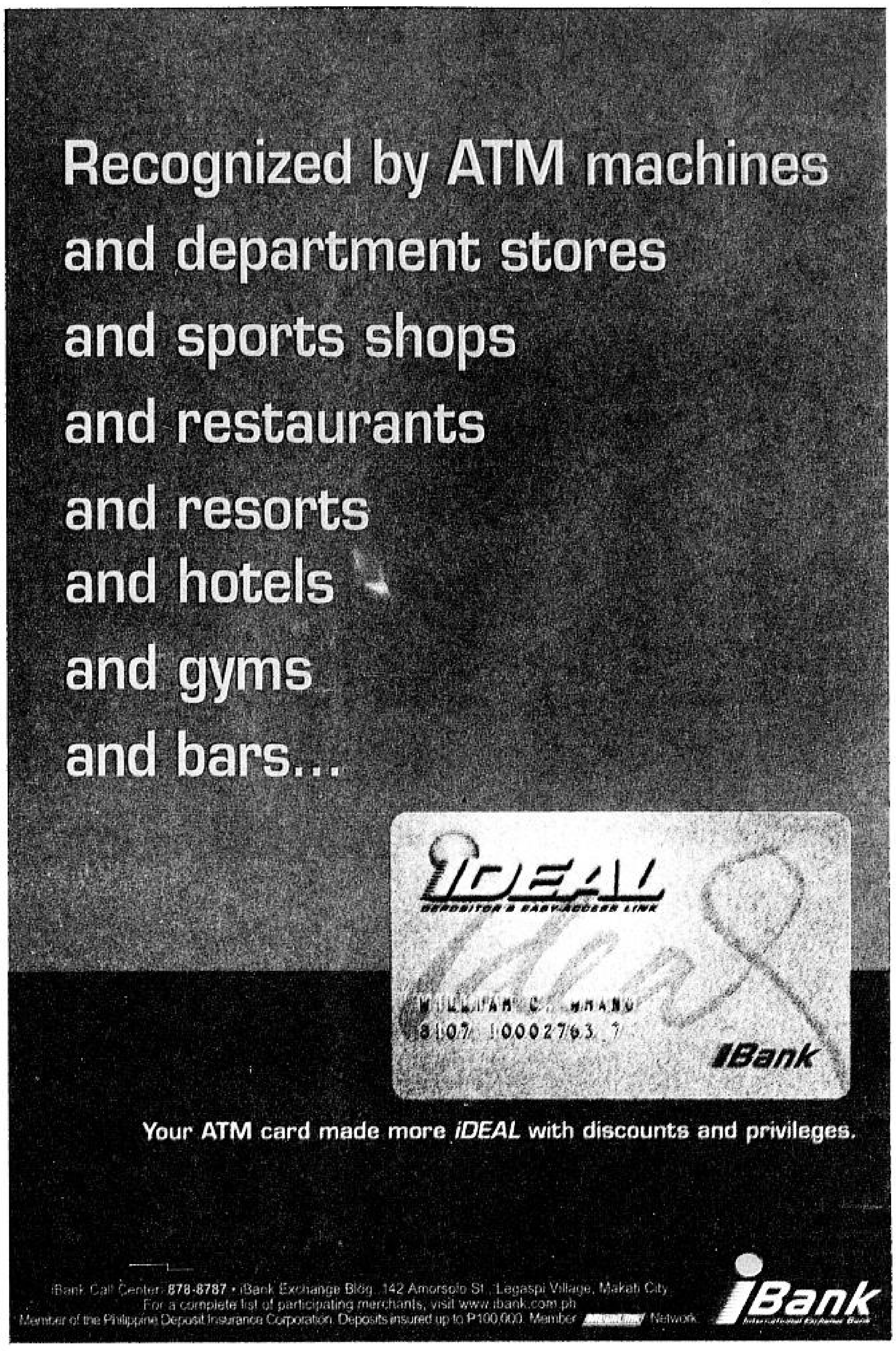
"Why can't we have a rest from all these divisive issues that tear the country apart? Why the rush? Is amending the Constitution a matter of life and death? It's not," he said.

Arroyo said that with only 30 days before Congress adjourns the indications are that "neither the Senate nor the House can enact next year's budget."

"And we will take up again Cha-cha? That's more important than the budget?" he said.

He urged Senate President Franklin Drilon, who is himself against the formula proposed by the House in amending the Charter, to help senators "mark our priorities and avoid divisions."

"We cannot afford dissension. We can't afford a fight between the Senate and the House now. The budget is the most important piece of legislation. Yesterday, it was the House versus the Supreme Court. Tomorrow, it's the Senate versus the House."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6. See posters for complete details.

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VISITOR FROM ASTANA

RP wants to buy oil, coal from Kazakhstan

MALACAÑANG yesterday said the Philippines wanted to buy oil and coal from Kazakhstan to expand its sources from traditional suppliers.

"I talked about buying oil and gas products and coal and selling our expertise in construction and oil exploration," President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said during a joint news conference at the Palace with visiting Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

PRESIDENT Macapagal and President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan troop the line in Malacañang.

PDI PHOTO / VAL HANDUMON

The country buys most of its crude requirement from Iran and Saudi Arabia in the Middle East, coal from China and Indonesia, and petroleum products from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore.

In a separate statement, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said: "Establishing a strong relationship with Kazakhstan enhances our energy security initiatives... and lessens our dependence on the Middle East."

Kazakhstan, the world's ninth largest country, is part of the Commonwealth of Independent States comprised of nations that once belonged to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It has a population of over 15 million. In 2000, large oil reserves were discovered in its Kashagan fields, acclaimed as the most significant find in the last 30 years.

Today, Kazakhstan produces about one million barrels of oil per day, and plans to increase its output to 3.5 million bpd by 2015.

During the Malacañang meeting, the Philippines and Kazakhstan signed three bilateral agreements—the first to be concluded since the two countries established diplomatic relations in March 1992.

Ms Macapagal and Nazarbayev, the first Kazakh leader to visit the country, witnessed the signing of the RP-Kazakhstan Tourism Agreement, Protocol on Political Consultations and Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders.

Nazarbayev thanked the Philippines' support of his country's application for membership in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and World Trade Organization.

In turn, Ms Macapagal thanked Kazakhstan for its support in the Philippines' successful bid to gain a seat in the United Nations Security Council and for backing Manila's pending bid for observer status in the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Ms Macapagal was excited over the prospect of getting more tourists from Kazakhstan, specially during winter. "Central Asia can become very cold in the winter time," she said. "We can offer our beaches.

There are currently about 600 Filipinos working in Kazakhstan, most of them in oil refineries and construction. "Rapid expansion in these sectors and other areas call for, perhaps, a hundred thousand additional workers," Ms Macapagal said.

Earlier, Nazarbayev addressed Philippine businessmen at a luncheon hosted by the Management Association of the Philippines. The meeting of Kazakh businessmen and their local counterparts is expected to boost local exports to Kazakhstan, mainly consumer items like garments and fresh and preserved fruits.

Ms Macapagal hosted a state dinner last night in honor of Nazarbayev. The visitors leave for Seoul, South Korea at noon today.

Jerome Aning and Gil Cabacungan Jr., with reports from AP and Reuters

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GMA, solons rally behind De Venecia

From page A1

after he announced to a bitterly divided House that he respected the ruling of the Supreme Court on the unconstitutionality of the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr.filed by his colleagues.

Decisive victory

"I think that he (De Venecia) won a very decisive victory last (Monday) night and I think all those who voted for his position (on the Supreme Court) would support him," Ms Macapagal told Palace reporters after receiving visiting Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazerbayev.

"Well, certainly I would call on all our allies to support Speaker de Venecia," the President told Tina Monzon-Palma's "Talkback" show on ANC Monday night when asked about De Venecia's statement that he could lose the speakership because of his stand.

"He has laid his position on the line in defense of what we all recognize as an important constitutional principle, and that is the power of the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution," she said.

Position on the line

In De Venecia's own turf, Rep. Exequel Javier of Antique said, "We are proud of the Speaker for his decisiveness and for showing the way how to treat the high tribunal's ruling without fearing adverse consequences of his act like a possible ouster."

Rep. Aurelio Umali of Nueva Ecija said De Venecia made a crucial decision regardless of congressional disapproval by some congressmen.

Impressed

"The Speaker, exercising prudence, knew that there would be more crises if we refuse to respect the Supreme Court ruling," Umali said.

Party-list Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin, who signed the impeachment complaint but expressed support for the tri-partite covenant proposed by Ms Macapagal said she was impressed by the Speaker's noble intention and sacrifices as a leader of the House.

"For once, the Speaker's statesmanship shines through," she said.

Lokin said the manner of voting on the motion to appeal De Venecia's ruling to respect the Supreme Court decision was a clear indication that he still enjoyed the confidence of the majority.

Against Davide but not JDV

She pointed out that not all who signed the impeachment complaint against Davide were against De Venecia, adding that the impeachment and the speakership were two different issues.

Take Rep. Rodolfo Albano (Lakas, Isabela), who signed the impeachment complaint but would be the first one to counter any move to oust De Venecia.

Albano said that he remained unwavering in his stand on the Davide impeachment complaint but that he does not want to replace De Venecia.

Rep. Prospero Nograles of Davao City said De Venecia humbled himself and swallowed his pride "just to prevent an incendiary situation that could cause irreversible political chaos in the country."

Rep.Wilfrido Villarama of Bulacan said the Speaker acted to protect the interest of the people.

"The resolution of the issue signals our return to our duty to act on more important measures pertinent to revenue generation, the budget and economic recovery, he added.

Warning

But De Venecia isn't exactly home free. He should watch his back, according to Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr. (Lakas, Negros Occidental). Lozada pointed to the chamber's deep-seated bitterness over its failure to transmit the Articles of Impeachment against Davide to the Senate.

Lozada said that while De Venecia survived a motion to declare all House positions, including the speakership, vacant, "there is still a danger that the Speaker might be ousted from his post."

Conditional vote

Even if he belongs to the ruling party, Lozada cast a "conditional" vote to uphold the Supreme Court ruling on the Davide impeachment case even if this meant that he had to "suppress my emotions, swallow my pride and preserve the rule of law."

"If I had followed my emotions, I would have rebelled and fought on to defend the integrity of the House which has been hurt and wounded deeply," Lozada said.

He said that he also felt that "pain which is unbearable" and expressed hope that "one day, that other body (Supreme Court) will also consult their conscience and realize that their actions indeed damaged this institution (House)."

Rep. Abraham Mitra (LDP, Palawan) said that the outcome would have been different if former Speaker and now Sen. Manny Villar was at the rostrum Monday night.

A slap

"The House failed because of poor generalship," Mitra said. "If the one calling the shots was Manny Villar, the House would not have been slapped on the face."

Villar was the House Speaker in November 2000 when he broke ties with then President Joseph Estrada when he transmitted the Articles of Impeachment against Estrada through a prayer to prevent pro-Estrada congressmen from blocking it.

De Venecia defended his action, saying it was for the best for the nation.

"It was charity for all and malice towards none," De Venecia said.

De Venecia conceded that while "some" congressmen may feel bad over the outcome of the Davide impeachment complaint, the move to recognize the Supreme Court ruling was the decision of the majority.

"This is what democracy is all about," De Venecia said.

De Venecia also made light of Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen's motion Monday night seeking to declare all House positions vacant.

Natural reaction

"He (Dilangalen) has been trying to do that for the last two years," De Venecia said.

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) said that "this sniping against the Speaker is a natural reaction of the opposition."

A friend

Pichay said: "Speaker De Venecia demonstrated the mettle of good leadership, the kind of leadership that puts the interest of the nation as its principal motive."

Pichay also stressed that the opposition does not have the numbers to unseat the De Venecia, whom he said is considered a friend by most congressmen.

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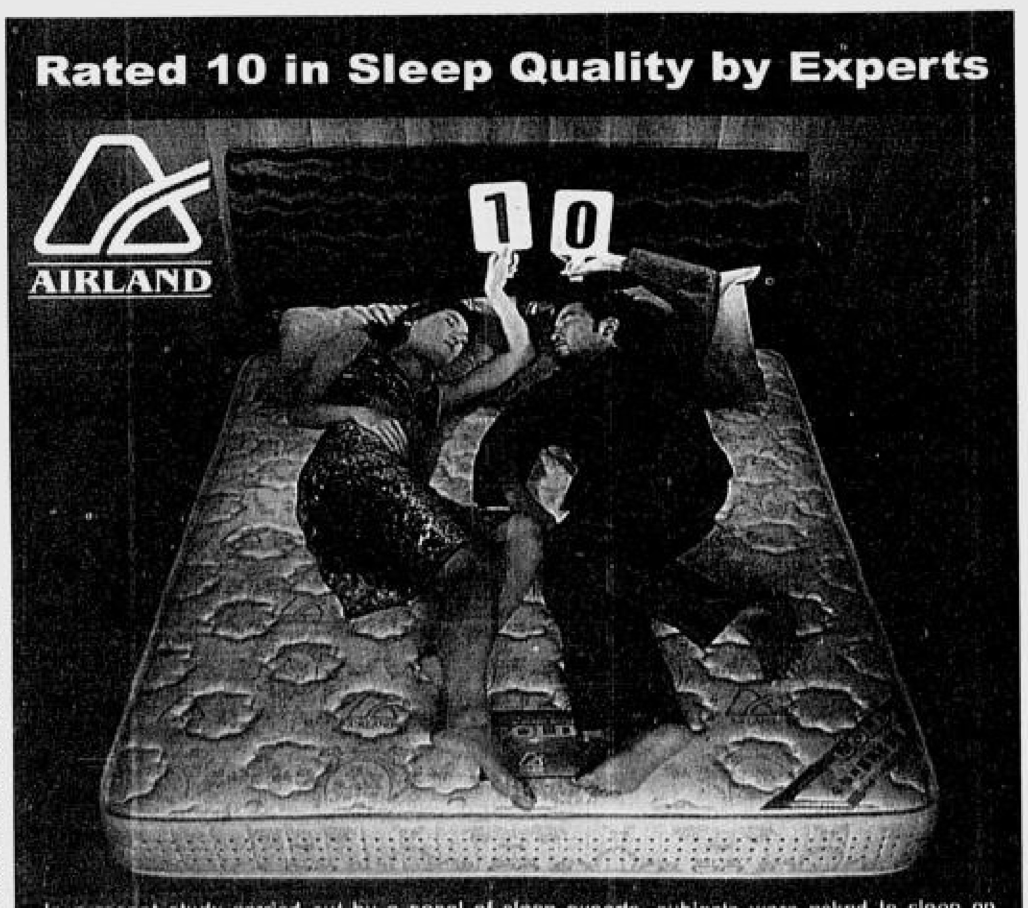

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Gov't asked to probe, close schools operating without permits

A NON-GOVERNMENT organization yesterday asked the government to probe and close down schools operating without the necessary permits and inadequate teaching staff or facilities, particularly caregiver and computer schools.

Dr. Amang Magsaysay, secretary general of the Alliance of Volunteer Educators (AVE), said that certain schools offering caregiver and computer courses do not have the required permits from either the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) or the Commission on Higher Education (Ched).

Magsaysay called on the Tesda and the Ched to immediately publish a complete list of accredited caregiver and computer schools.

He added that Congress should impose stiffer penalties on operators of "fly-by-night" schools. *Alcuin Papa*

Bangladesh minister here today

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Blas Ople will raise again the Philippine's bid for observer status in the Organization of the Islamic Conference and seek support for peace in Mindanao, when he meets his Bangladeshi counterpart, who arrives tomorrow for a four-day official visit.

Ople said the visit of Foreign Minister Morshed Khan "is expected to advance political, economic and cultural relations between the Philippines and Bangladesh through innovating and meaningful cooperation."

The two will discuss bilateral, regional and international issues and common concerns.

Khan would also call on President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Corazon Aquino. *Jerome Aning*

Gordon plays coy on VP bid

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon yesterday played coy on his reported plan to run for vice president.

"I have not made any announcement to run for a higher public office in 2004," Gordon said in a statement.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo earlier identified Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando and Gordon as possible vice presidential candidates.

But Gordon declined to say what post he would run for. "I have always gone where I could make a difference," he said.

Lakas-CMD sources earlier said at least 10 Cabinet members are on the long list of the party's senatorial candidates. They include, aside from Gordon, secretaries Mar Roxas of trade, Cito Lorenzo of agriculture, Roberto Pagdanganan of agrarian reform, Jose Lina of interior, Manuel Dayrit of health, Roilo Golez of national security, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, anti-kidnapping czar Angelo Reyes and presidential adviser on overseas Filipinos Heherson Alvarez. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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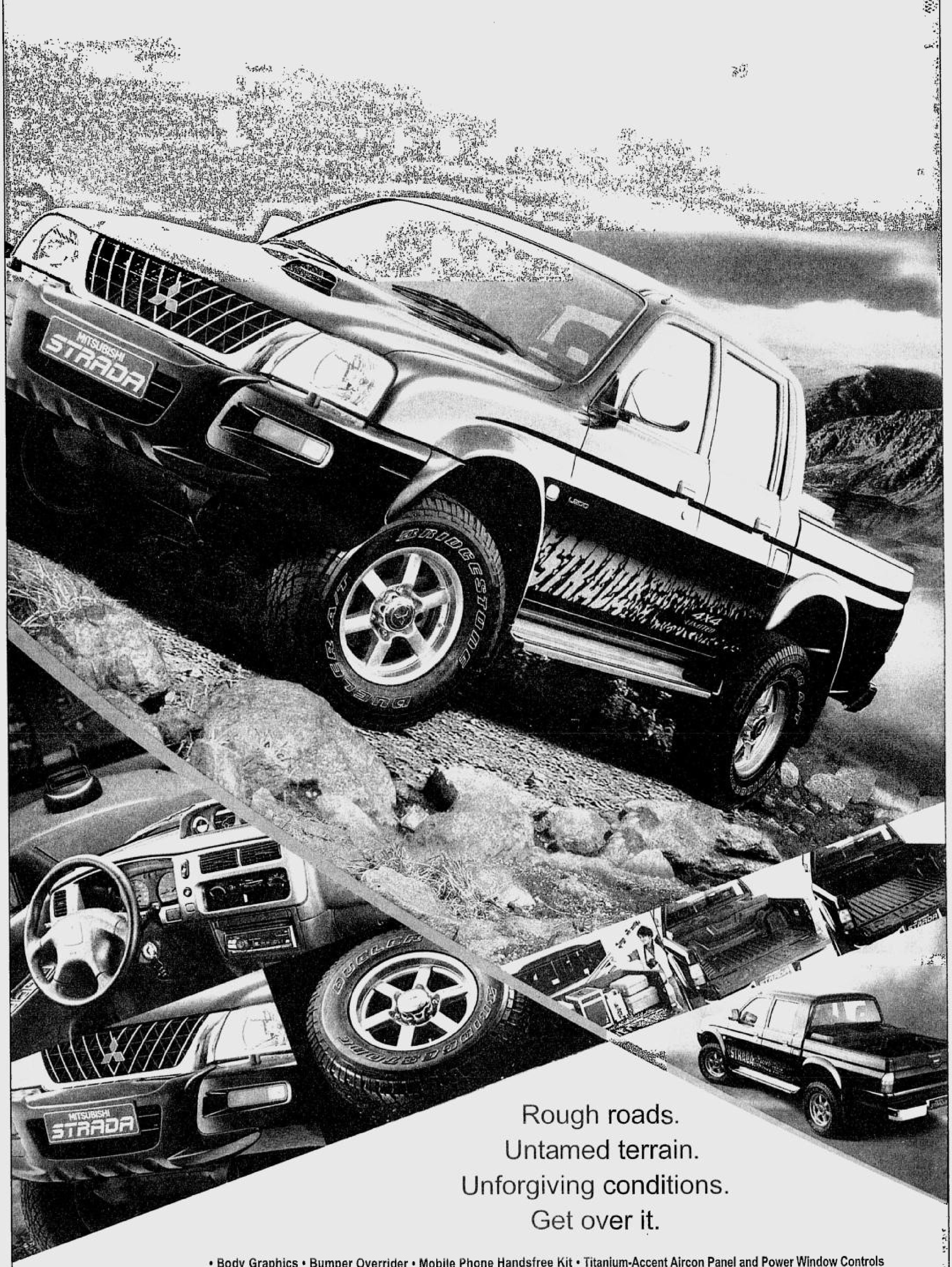

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Learning experience for House 'Brat Pack'

From page A1

"It has bent the strongest among us," said Duavit, whose family owns part of the giant GMA-7 television network.

Duavit told his peers at the House, mostly his elders, that if the country must have serious reforms, political will must prevail.

Rep. Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon), who at only 34 years old is already his party's spokesperson, said in his speech that he wanted to "salute" his colleagues who stood fast and firm in their conviction that Davide must answer the question against him.

Escudero described them as the "real Davids who dared to go against the Goliaths."

"I am proud to be among those who fought this good fight," Escudero said.

Escudero said that since he and his colleagues filed the Davide impeachment complaint, they have been subjected to "very painful words."

Escudero, however, declared that it should be said that in a democracy, no one has the monopoly to determine what is right and moral.

One vote

A total of 77 congressmen voted to overrule Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.'s decision to abide by the ruling of the Supreme Court, while 155 voted in favor.

The figure 77 was a vote more than the minimum required vote of 76, or one-third of the 226-strong House, needed to automatically transmit the Articles of Impeachment.

A House insider noted that the pro-impeachment bloc failed to force the transmittal, apparently for two reasons.

"They were not sure when the session started at 4 p.m. Monday that they can hold the minimum 76 and that could be one reason why they did not force it at the onset."

"The other is that they were not skilled yet on parliamentary procedures and that's why rings were run around them," the source added.

After the roll call was finished Tuesday afternoon, Rep. Manuel Ortega (NPC, La Union) immediately rose to inquire on the status of the transmittal, since the number of signatories complied with the one-third rule.

De Venecia suspended the session and deferred dealing with Ortega's inquiry.

When De Venecia ordered a resumption of session, he asked Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II (Lakas, Mandaluyong) to dispense first with pending administrative matters.

Gonzales complied and called for an approval of the House journal for its session covering Oct. 27-28.

This generated a long debate as opposition congressmen rose to question the propriety of the House leadership's decision to adjourn session last Oct. 28, a move that prevented the transmission of the Articles of Impeachment.

Like dogs

But the leader of a civil society group who witnessed the House session said many of the pro-impeachment congressmen acted in an offensive manner.

"They were like dogs going back to their masters, awaiting to be tapped or stroked."

About 50 members of the Konsensyang Pilipino, the Concerned Women of the Philippines and other civil society groups stayed past 2 a.m. Tuesday to ensure that administration congressmen stayed the course.

During the course of their watch, civil society leaders said they were "aghast" at the actuations of 77 congressmen who voted in favor of Dilangalen's motion.

"After casting their votes and explaining it on the floor, most of them invariably (went) to the Cojuangco brothers to shake their hands or exchange banter. One was brazen enough as to make a high-five," said an official of the Konsensyang Pilipino, who asked not to be named.

The source was referring to the sons of businessman and NPC head Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco—Representatives Mark and Carlos "Charlie" Cojuangco of the 5th district of Pangasinan and 4th district of Negros Occidental, respectively.

"*Para silang tuta* (they were like pet dogs)," the source said.

Temporary setback

In Isabela, Rep. Rodolfo Albano Jr., one of those who signed the impeachment complaint, described the Supreme Court ruling on the unconstitutionality of the complaint as a "temporary setback."

"All is not over. We will likely file a motion for reconsideration. One thing is clear, this case will go on," Albano, a member of the administration Lakas-CMD said.

Rep. Faustino Dy III, a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition, said he and his colleagues would not stop pursuing the complaint, as this would set a bad precedent.

"We are wary that for every expose that we would file and every inquiry that we would like to tackle in aid of legislation will be stopped by the Supreme Court. Yet, we are not under the Supreme Court," Dy said.

But Cibac party-list Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin said it was time to call it a day.

Lokin, who signed the complaint, said the impeachment debate was both a learning and humbling experience for them.

With reports from Cynthia Balana; Villamor Visaya Jr. and Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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'Brat Pack' didn't listen—COA

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE CRISIS triggered by the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. would not have come about if the signatories to the complaint had given the Commission on Audit the chance to explain its findings on the Judiciary Development Fund.

Representatives Felix William "Wimpy" Fuentebella and the other signatories had accused Davide of misusing the multibillion-peso JDF.

At a Senate subcommittee hearing on the proposed P3.9-billion budget of the COA, state auditor Cecilia Caga-anan said yesterday that there was nothing irregular about the discrepancies found by the agency's audit report on the JDF.

Caga-anan said the No. 1 audit finding of the report the COA prepared for the House justice committee was that the "validity of the cash in bank account (of the JDF) cannot be ascertained."

She explained that this was so because auditors had failed to update the balances of the JDF. She noted that in one month alone auditors would have to "reconcile" 30,000 transactions, or the collection of filing fees in trial courts by 1,377 collecting officers all over the country, with the financial books.

Caga-anan said disparities in which the bank accounts and records did not match were "common in all government agencies and even private entities."

"That is the reason why at the end of the month, there must be a monthly bank reconciliation statement but this has not been done by the Supreme Court on one account only, the mother account ... because of the enormous deposits," she said.

COA chief Guillermo Carague said monitoring the JDF entailed an "enormous" amount of work. "This involves large deposits ... so anytime you prepare a bank reconciliation statement, there would always be a backlog at any one time," Carague said.

"Had the House committee on justice continued with the inquiry (into the JDF), we could have explained our findings," Caga-anan said.

When Sen. Francis Pangilinan asked Caga-anan whether the nonreconciliation of the bank balances and JDF books was proof that there was corruption or irregularity in the disbursement of the JDF, she replied in the affirmative.

After the hearing, Pangilinan, chair of the finance subcommittee, said that the "discrepancy in the interpretation of the COA report is a result of the failure to reconcile the JDF books and the bank report."

Pangilinan said that there would be a difference in interpreting documents of the JDF in 2000 and 2001 because a new accounting system was put in place by the COA last year.

"The mess could be traced to the old accounting system and the new computerized system," he said.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Al-Qaida claims it was behind Saudi blasts

RIYADH—An Arab magazine said Tuesday that it had received an e-mail from a purported al-Qaida operative claiming that the terror network was behind a suicide car bombing that killed at least 17 people in the Saudi capital.

Saudi and US officials already had blamed Saturday's attack on al-Qaida, which opposes the United States and the Saudi ruling family, but no group had claimed responsibility.

"We struck Muhaya compound," the London-based weekly Al-Majalla quoted an e-mail from a purported al-Qaida operative identified as Abu Mohammed al-Ablaj as saying. Muhaya was the name of the residential compound attacked Saturday.

The magazine, which appears on Fridays, said the e-mail was first seen late Monday and released a statement about it to The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Al-Majalla magazine began receiving e-mails from al-Ablaj earlier this year. A US counterterrorism official has said al-Ablaj was believed to be a leading al-Qaida figure also known as Abu Bakr.

Among al-Ablaj statements that the Arab magazine has published in the past was one it said it received before the string of bombings in US-occupied Iraq in late October that said the terrorist network was preparing attacks against Americans during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. The start of Ramadan coincided with the Iraq bombings.

In Iraq on Tuesday, the commander of American forces said the US military was holding 20 people suspected of links to al-Qaida but had not determined whether they were members of the network. US officials have said they suspect foreign volunteers, including some from al-Qaida, have slipped into Iraq, but a number of US commanders have said they were uncertain about the numbers of foreign fighters and their role in the insurgency.

Al-Majalla magazine also reported previously that it received an e-mail warning from al-Ablaj of attacks in Saudi Arabia a day before the May 12 suicide bombings in Saudi Arabia. Those bombings resembled Saturday's attack, hitting a residential compound housing foreigners and killing and wounding Arabs as well as Westerners.

The latest al-Ablaj e-mail addressed criticism that Saturday's strike killed Arabs and Muslims, not Americans, saying al-Qaida also believed "working with Americans and mixing with them" was forbidden.

Saturday night's car bombing was portrayed by Saudis as proof of al-Qaida's willingness to shed Arab and Muslim blood as well in its zeal to bring down the US-linked Saudi monarchy. Al-Qaida, led by Saudi-born, fugitive multimillionaire Osama bin Laden, has long opposed the Saudi royal family, accusing it of being insufficiently Islamic and too close to the West, particularly the United States.

At least 13 of those killed in Saturday compound attack were Arabs, with four still unidentified, Saudi official news agency quoted a Saudi interior ministry official as saying. Five were children. In addition, 122 people were injured, among them some Americans but most of them Arab. *AP*

US soldiers carry the flag-draped casket of Army Sgt. Joel Perez on Nov. 10 at the Arlington Cemetery in Kearny, New Jersey. Perez and several other soldiers were killed on Nov. 2 when their helicopter was shot down over Fallujah, Iraq, by insurgents. AFP

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Lynch debunks myths of rescue

NEW YORK—The authorized biography of Pfc. Jessica Lynch debunks early myths that US troops waged a daring rescue to save her, and describes a team of Iraqi doctors as gentle caretakers who worked at their own risk to keep her alive.

"I Am a Soldier, Too: The Jessica Lynch Story," published Tuesday, suggests camera-toting American fighters met no resistance as they rushed a Nasiriyah hospital on April 1 to retrieve the prisoner of war.

The biography, by former New York Times writer Rick Bragg, discredits stories from the war's first days that Lynch shot at her Iraqi captors, and that the Iraqi hospital was hostile territory that posed grave danger to Lynch's rescuers.

Once, according to the book, Iraqi medical workers even loaded Lynch into an ambulance and drove it to an American checkpoint in hopes of returning her—but came under fire from US troops and had to turn around.

Critics have suggested the US military, desperate for support for the war, exaggerated Lynch's story—or at least did not go far enough in publicly correcting rumors about how it played out.

"From the heartbreaking mess of the convoy ambush, gold was spun—first from an event that looked more dangerous on television than it perhaps had truly been, and next from a story of heroics in the fight at Nasiriyah that a Hollywood scriptwriter would have been hard put to invent," Bragg writes.

And the suggestion by a handful of critics that Lynch may have contributed to the myth, deceiving others to enhance her heroism, enrages her family and makes Lynch herself cry, according to the book.

"Don't they know I'd give anything in this world if it never happened at all?" she says.

Eleven soldiers lost their lives when Lynch's 507th Maintenance Company convoy was ambushed March 23 in Nasiriyah after missing a turn. Six soldiers were captured, including Lynch.

Lynch dismisses early reports that she had engaged in a firefight with the Iraqis who ambushed the convoy. Like many soldiers in her company, the M-16 rifle she carried had jammed with grime and airborne sand. She fired no shots, she said.

Lynch, then a 19-year-old Army supply clerk, was rescued nine days later by American soldiers who had been tipped off by an Iraqi lawyer that she was captive in a hospital.

The book says Lynch "lost" three hours between her last memory of the ambush and her awakening in an Iraqi hospital. *AP*

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2. **Certificate of Electrical Inspection**
3. **Locational Clearance**
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Many Britons disapprove of Bush

LONDON—Many people in Britain believe the international standing of the United States has suffered under President George W. Bush and dislike his handling of the situation in Iraq, according to an opinion poll published in a newspaper Tuesday.

Bush and his wife, Laura, will make a three-day state visit to Britain next week and will be the guests of Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. Prime Minister Tony Blair has been Washington's closest ally in the war on terror and its main coalition partner in Iraq, but many Britons opposed the war to dislodge Saddam Hussein and have criticized Blair's strong relationship with Bush.

In a poll published in The Times newspaper, 59 percent of respondents said America's standing in the world had diminished under Bush's presidency, while 60 percent disapproved of his handling of the situation in Iraq.

Forty-seven percent said Bush didn't seem up to the job of being US president, while 40 percent believed Britain benefited from the close relationship between Bush and Blair.

Regarding the war in Iraq, 49 percent believed that military action was the wrong thing to do, while 37 percent believed the opposite.

Blair said Monday that he accepted many people were opposed to the war, but insisted they should support attempts to restore stability and order to Iraq.

He also conceded that Bush's Nov. 19-21 visit would spark protests, but defended the US-led coalition's efforts to bring democracy to the Middle Eastern nation.

"In eight days time, President Bush makes his state visit to the United Kingdom," Blair said in a foreign policy speech at the Lord Mayor of London's annual banquet. "For many the script of this visit has already been written. There will be demonstrations. His friends wonder at the timing, his enemies rub their hands at what they see as the potential embarrassment.

"I believe this is exactly the right time for the president of the United States to come."

Andrew Burgin, spokesperson for the Stop the War Coalition, said the group hoped for 60,000 people to join an "Unwelcome Bush" march through central London Nov. 20. In Trafalgar Square, the group plans to pull down a specially erected statue of Bush, the coalition's website said.

"Protest if you will, that is your democratic right," said Blair. "Attack the decision to go to war, though have the integrity to realize that without it, those Iraqis now tasting freedom would still be under the lash of Saddam, his sons and their henchmen."

The Populus polling agency interviewed 964 adults by telephone between Nov. 7-9 for The Times survey. The margin of error was 3 percentage points. *AP*

Basra explosion kills 4 civilians

BAGHDAD—An explosion on a road used by British troops killed four civilians in the southern city of Basra, police said Tuesday, and a Kurdish guerrilla group that had battled the Turkish Army for 15 years said it would it would dissolve itself.

Freedom and Democracy in Kurdistan, or Kadek, said it was planning to form a new group that would likely be pan-Kurdish and would pursue Kurdish rights through negotiations.

"Kadek is being dissolved in order to make way for a new, more democratic organizational structure that allows for broader participation," the group said in a statement.

Adem Uzun, Kadek representative in Rome, confirmed that the group was disbanding itself. "We have been talking about a new formation for some time," he said.

The group was originally called the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, but changed its name to the Congress for Freedom and Democracy in Kurdistan last year and announced a shift in strategy saying it would peacefully campaign for Kurdish rights.

In Basra, an explosion destroyed two cars on a road frequently used by British troops. Soldiers immediately blocked off access to the site, but Iraqi police said four civilians were killed and three injured in the blast.

The commander of US forces in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, told reporters Tuesday that although attacks against his troops had increased, the insurgents knew "that from a military point of view, they couldn't defeat us."

Sanchez also said that Iraqi police apprehended an ambulance on Monday full of explosives, the second time that such a vehicle has been seized in the past two weeks.

The turmoil in the Kurdish organization comes as the guerrillas face increasing pressure from Turkey and the United States, which both consider the guerrillas as terrorists. The group's main fighting force of some 5,000 is based in the mountains of northern Iraq and is expected to face serious pressure from US and Turkish forces as Washington struggles to bring stability to Iraq. *AP*

Sri Lanka president, premier head for collision

COLOMBO—Sri Lanka's prime minister has accepted an invitation to meet the president on Wednesday, but neither appears ready for compromise in a power struggle that threatens efforts to restart peace talks with Tamil rebels.

Cabinet spokesperson G.L. Peiris said Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe would hold talks with President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who sacked three Cabinet ministers and suspended parliament last week because she felt the prime minister was making too many concessions to the rebels.

Wickremesinghe was in Washington at the time.

But Peiris indicated that Wickremesinghe was unlikely to support the president's call for a national unity government.

"The prime minister believes his main task is the fragility of this (peace) process and practical ways of mitigating that damage," Peiris told a news conference on Tuesday.

"That is the main matter he would like to discuss with her excellency, the president," he said.

"The prime minister would like to emphasize that he enjoys the support of 130 members of parliament and there is no need whatsoever in regard to change," he said of the 225-seat legislature.

News of the meeting came as two envoys from peace broker Norway arrived for discussions aimed at getting the government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) back to the negotiating table.

Their visit has been overshadowed by the political turmoil.

Wednesday's meeting will be the first between the president and prime minister—who are elected separately—since the crisis erupted last week when Kumaratunga sacked the defense, interior and media ministers and suspended parliament until Nov. 19.

Her office said the meeting was "to discuss the current political situation" and to get Wickremesinghe's views "on her call for a Grand Alliance of all national and patriotic forces, with the objective of forming a Government of National Reconstruction and Reconciliation."

Peiris said on Monday that Wickremesinghe would ask the president to take over the peace process if she did not restore the ministries.

With Wickremesinghe confident of his popular support and of keeping his majority in parliament, he will be under pressure from his own party to stand firm in the contest of wills with the president.

For Kumaratunga, who has vast powers under the constitution, giving back the ministries would be an admission of weakness after last week's power grab, but agreeing to handle the peace process would alienate her from her left-wing supporters.

The power struggle comes as Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Vidar Helgesen and peace envoy Erik Solheim try to arrange preliminary talks between the government and LTTE to sort out issues and logistics before resuming direct talks to end a 20-year civil war.

But Peiris said the current crisis was complicating efforts to end a 20-year civil war that has killed 64,000 people and sapped the economy of the island state off the southern tip of India.

The envoys were scheduled to meet Wickremesinghe later on Tuesday and Kumaratunga, who narrowly survived a rebel suicide bomb attack in 1999, on Wednesday before meeting the Tigers on Thursday.

A Norwegian-brokered ceasefire has been in force since February 2002 but peace talks stalled in April.

Reuters

POET-CLIMBER
French firemen try to persuade Herve Couasnon, dubbed the "poet-climber," to get off the ledge of the roof balcony of the City Hall in Rennes. Couasnon is known to recite poetry atop public buildings.
AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

US high court hears first antiterror case

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court agreed to hear its first case arising from the war on terrorism, an appeal asking whether foreigners held at the US Navy base in Cuba may contest their captivity in American courts. The case concerns more than 650 prisoners held essentially incommunicado at Guantanamo Bay. The Bush administration maintains that because the men were picked up overseas on suspicion of terrorism and are being held on foreign land they may be detained indefinitely without charges or trial. The men, mostly Muslims, have no access to lawyers or other outsiders, and do not even know they are the subject of the case the court agreed on Monday to hear, according to lawyers who have taken up their cause. Some among them may eventually be tried before military tribunals, but the administration has not said when. How the court rules could affect those plans. *AP*

Toy bomb causes security scare

BANGKOK—A toy bomb mailed to the US Embassy in Bangkok caused a security scare on Tuesday before Thai police determined it had been sent as a joke to an employee along with Osama bin Laden toilet roll. Bomb disposal experts rushed to the downtown embassy to investigate the parcel which had been shown to contain a bomb-like object during a routine scan. "We found a model toy bomb inside the parcel, together with two rolls of toilet tissue printed with Bin Laden's face, a black T-shirt with an eagle logo and a military strategy book," said Lt. Gen. Thanee Somboonsaphe. "It was not a threat, it was not related to terrorism," he said. "It is a gift for someone in the embassy and nothing to be concerned about." Police said the parcel was sent from the US state of Virginia. *AFP*

7th century citadel discovered

HANOI—Archaeologists on Tuesday announced that they have uncovered the ruins of an ancient citadel in Hanoi dating back to the seventh century, describing it as the most important archaeological find in Vietnamese history. Workers began clearing an area the size of two soccer fields in December 2002 to build government buildings. It was initially thought that the site may contain artifacts, so archeologists were called in to investigate before construction began. On Tuesday, an archaeological team revealed it had discovered thousands of artifacts, many in good condition, as well as pillar foundations of a 1,000-sq.-m. structure, graves, a network of drainage systems, water wells and imprints of an ancient river and lake. "This is the biggest and most important archaeological find in Vietnam's archaeological history," said Tong Trung Tin, deputy director of the Institute of Archaeology. *AP*

Sihanouk worries over successor

PHNOM PENH—Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk Tuesday sounded the alarm over the "problem" of selecting his successor in the event he dies during the current political limbo after inconclusive July elections. Under Cambodian law the king, who just turned 81, does not have an heir-apparent and the next monarch will be chosen by a Council of the Throne which could not be convened at the moment because a government has not been formed. The threat of a constitutional crisis, which could jeopardize the future of the monarchy, is clearly worrying the king, who has made repeated attempts to push the three main political parties to form an administration. *AFP*

Free sex for HK vice cops

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's top police spokesperson says it's OK for undercover cops to get certain sexual favors from prostitutes during investigations aimed at cracking down on solicitation, but has declined to comment on allegations some officers are demanding sex for free. Chief Supt. Tang How-kong was responding to a growing furor over allegations that some police were using their positions to demand free services from prostitutes in Hong Kong, where prostitution is legal but brothels and solicitation are not. Tang insisted that policemen were behaving professionally—with no pleasure involved—in their limited contact with prostitutes during the course of their investigations. *AP*

Drug may help people unlearn fears

NEW ORLEANS—Scientists say a pill may help people overcome their worst phobias. In a small study released on Monday, a drug already on the market for tuberculosis helped people who were terrified of heights get over that fear with only two therapy sessions instead of the usual seven or eight. The study, led by Michael Davis, a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Emory University School of Medicine, was described at a session about unlearning fears at a Society for Neuroscience meeting. Davis based his work on research that had found the transmission of a certain protein to a brain receptor were critical to overcoming fear. He found that the TB drug, D-cycloserine, aids the transmission of the crucial protein. *AP*

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UN: No evidence Iran making nukes

VIENNA, Austria—A confidential UN nuclear agency report found "no evidence" that Iran tried to make atomic arms, but it criticized Tehran for coverups and warned it's still uncertain if Iran's nuclear efforts were for peaceful purposes, diplomats said.

The report also found that Iran had produced small amounts of enriched uranium and plutonium, according to the Washington Post.

In Moscow, a top Iranian official said his country was temporarily halting its uranium enrichment program and had agreed to tougher UN inspections.

Citing the report by the head of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, the diplomats said Monday that the 29-page document faulted Iran for not telling the truth in the past about its nuclear programs.

Prepared for a Nov. 20 meeting of the IAEA board of governors, the report comes as the United States continues to focus attention on Iran's nuclear activities. The Bush administration has argued that Iran should be declared in violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty at that meeting—a move that would lead to UN Security Council involvement and possible sanctions.

The diplomats said that the IAEA report also credited Iran for a change of heart since September, when the agency demanded it clear up suspicions it was running a covert weapons program by explaining contradictions and ambiguities in its nuclear activities.

"To date, there is no evidence that the previously undeclared nuclear material and activities . . . were related to a nuclear weapons program," said one of the diplomats, reading from the report drawn up by IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei. "However, given Iran's previous pattern of concealment, it will take some time before the agency is able to conclude that Iran's nuclear program is exclusively for peaceful purposes."

US officials will likely seize on a passage in the report saying that Tehran's recent disclosures "clearly show that in the past, Iran had concealed many aspects of its nuclear activities, which resulted in breaches of its obligations of the safeguard agreement."

The safeguards, which are meant to ensure all nuclear activities are peaceful, are a key part of the Nonproliferation Treaty.

In its Tuesday editions, the Washington Post said the report found that Iran manufactured small amounts of enriched uranium and plutonium as part of a nuclear program that operated in secret.

"Iran has now acknowledged that it has been developing, for 18 years, a uranium centrifuge program, and, for 12 years, a laser enrichment program," the Post said, quoting the report.

Under international pressure, Iran recently gave the agency what it said was a complete declaration of its nuclear activities just days ahead of an Oct. 31 deadline. On Monday, it also handed over two letters pledging to sign an additional agreement throwing open its program to inspection on demand by agency experts and announcing it had suspended uranium enrichment.

The concessions were announced in Moscow by Hasan Rowhani, head of Iran's powerful Supreme National Security Council.

"Atomic weapons are not important to our defense doctrine," Rowhani said before meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose government helped build Tehran's nuclear program.

Washington has urged Moscow to freeze its $800 million deal to help build Iran's first nuclear reactor, saying the facility in Bushehr on the shore of the Persian Gulf could help Iran develop weapons. The Kremlin has said it shares some of the US concerns and has prodded Tehran to accept tighter IAEA controls.

Tehran promised weeks ago to suspend its enrichment activities, a key concern.

Iran has acknowledged that it enriched uranium covertly at a sophisticated facility at Natanz, about 480 km south of Tehran. But it maintains enrichment was only to non-weapons levels, as part of nuclear programs meant to generate electricity. *AP*

KORAN MADE OF CHOCOLATE

Indonesian chef Sugeng Subagyo (right) unveils a 12-meter-wide and 1.7-meter-high Koran made of white chocolate at the Gran Melia Hotel in Jakarta on Nov. 11 to celebrate the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. AFP

Mahathir: Jew settlements spark terrorism

NAHA, Japan—Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Tuesday predicted continued Palestinian terror attacks until they are compensated for the loss of land that they claim, saying the conflict between Muslim Arabs and Jews is not about religion.

In his first public appearance since retiring last month, Mahathir didn't repeat his earlier claims that "Jews rule the world." However, in a speech at a globalization and security forum he identified Jewish settlements on Palestinian-claimed land as a motive for violence.

"There is no doubt it precipitated the conflict between Arabs and Jews that we are seeing today," Mahathir said. "It is logical to expect Palestinians would continue to mount terror attacks until they get redress for their territorial loss."

He questioned why Israel was set up where it was.

"Palestine was chosen because 2,000 years ago or so the Jews, upon expulsion from pharaonic Egypt, set up their state there," he said.

"If this basis is legitimate for making Palestine a Jewish homeland, then the red Indians should claim the United States and Canada, the Aborigines claim Australia, and the Maoris, New Zealand."

Mahathir stepped down last month after running mainly Muslim Malaysia for 22 years.

Two weeks before his retirement, he sparked an uproar by telling a summit of Islamic leaders that, "Jews rule the world by proxy. They get others to fight and die for them."

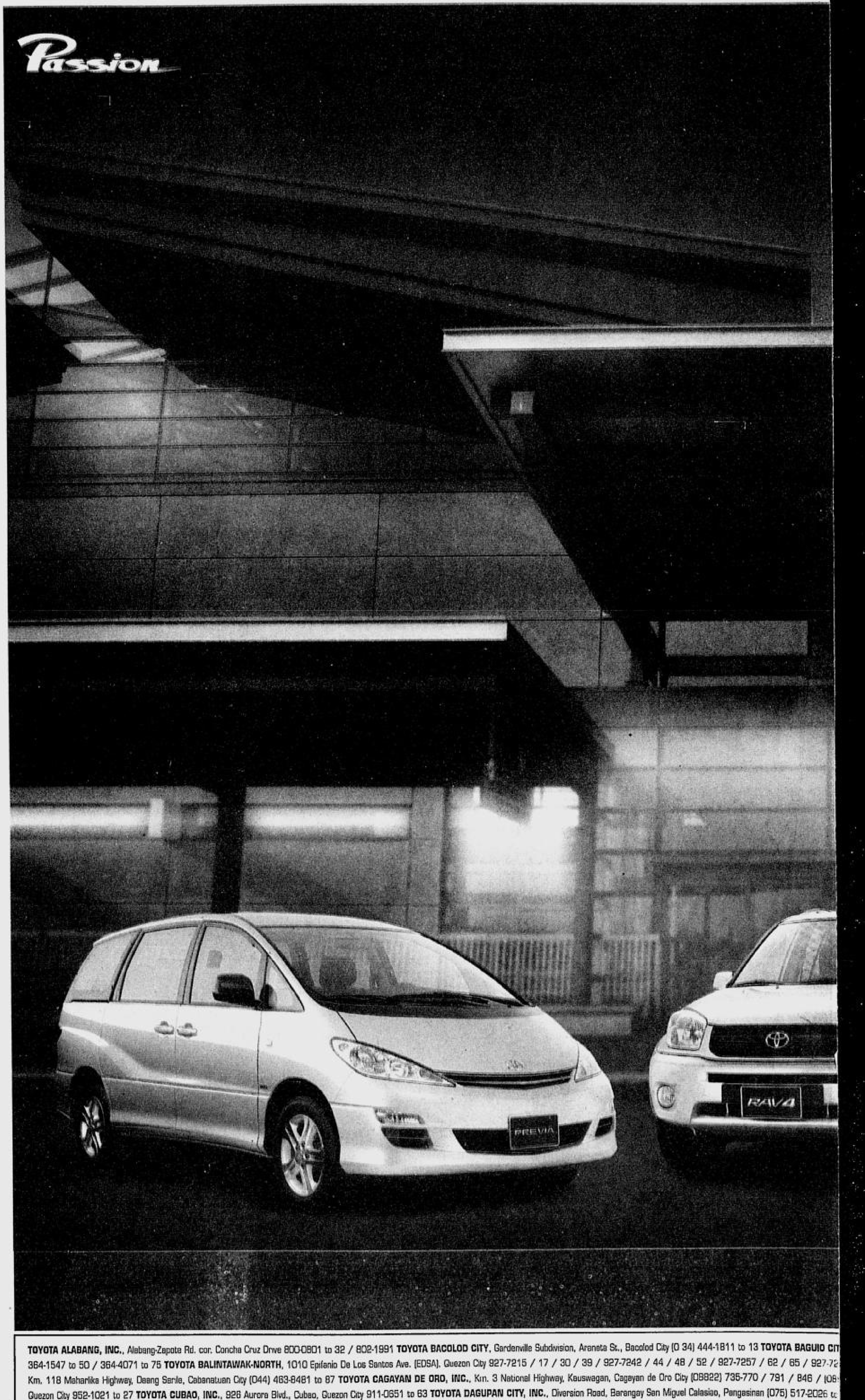
His comments were condemned internationally.

"Muslims are not anti-Semitic. Europeans were and can be," Mahathir said on Tuesday. "We reserve the right to condemn anyone who is oppressive, whether they have been victims of oppression or not."

Mahathir claimed that Washington's "attacks against Afghanistan and Iraq have brought about more security problems."

He condemned terrorism, but offered no solutions for beating it.

"We are not sympathizing with (terrorists) but we do have to know what motivates them. And knowing, we have to remove these motivations," he said. *AP*



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HK taps Australian in hunt for crocodile

HONG KONG—Hong Kong has invited an Australian crocodile hunter to help nab a 1.5-meter-long specimen that has eluded the desperate attempts of local authorities to trap it for more than a week.

"We have decided to assist . . . in inviting this Australian expert here," Thomas Chan, director of agriculture, fisheries and conservation, told a news briefing on Tuesday.

"His name is John Lever. He has said before he would use tools and can even catch it with his bare hands," Chan said, adding that Lever would be in Hong Kong before the weekend.

The beast, the first crocodile to be sighted in a city better known for its skyscrapers, has become a celebrity since it was spotted two weekends ago in a river in the New Territories.

Residents accustomed to seeing reptile skin only on designer bags and boots have been bombarded daily by newspapers and TV showing pictures of the cunning croc.

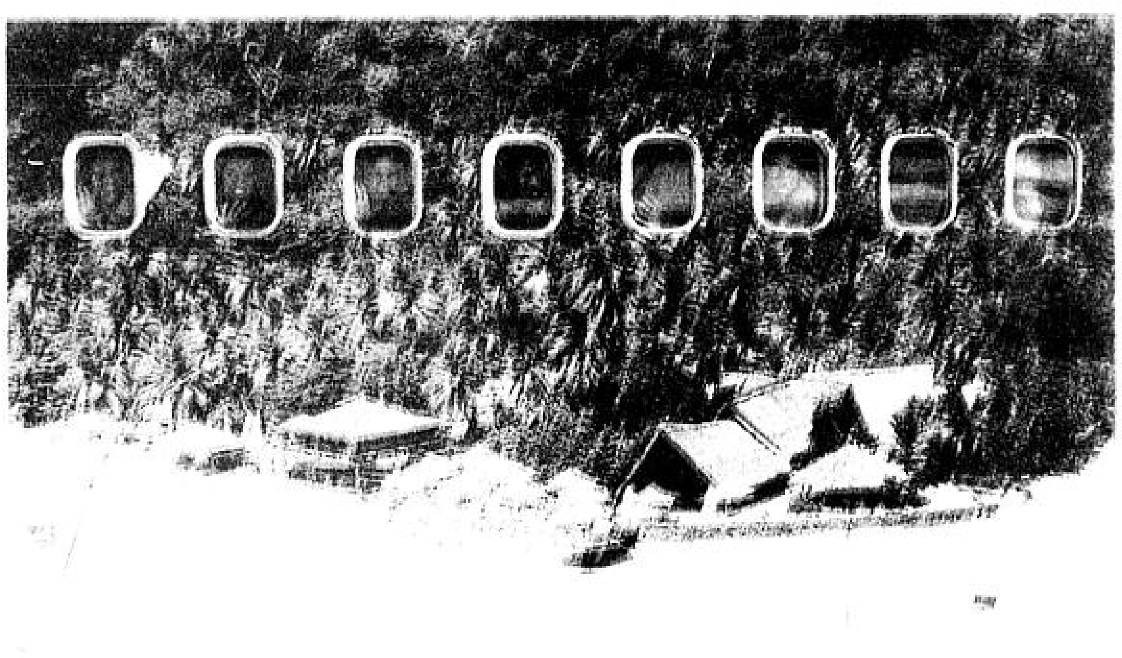
It spends most of its time submerged and has turned its nose up at dead chickens and other bait laid in trap cages, preferring to dine on live fish in the filthy and foul-smelling river.

Frustrated government workers that have been chasing the tropical reptile held their breath when it drifted briefly over the weekend into one of many cages, only to see it turn around and leave, unimpressed with the fare inside.

The saga has also caught the imagination of several "crocodile Dundee" aspirants, who have turned up at the river with elaborate homemade traps and nets over the last few days, only to be waved away by police.

"Our wildlife laws state that apart from people issued with hunting licenses, other individuals who try to catch any wildlife would be breaking the law and will be fined HK$50,000," Chan warned.

It will cost Hong Kong taxpayers nothing to hire Lever, who is rendering his services for free. A local newspaper has offered to arrange his flights and accommodation. *Reuters*



CASTAWAY ISLAND

Passengers can be seen through the windows of an **Air Pacific Boeing 747 aircraft** featuring a mural of idyllic Castaway Island in the **Mamanuca** group at **Fiji's International Airport in Nadi on Nov. 11.** Since the Bali bombings, tourism has overtaken **sugar cane as the South Pacific archipelago's** primary source of foreign revenue.

AFP

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Toyota Launches New Mobile Lifestyle

Introduces New Prado, Previa & RAV4

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) takes automotive excitement to another level this November with the introduction of three new models dubbed as "Toyota's Mobile Lifestyle" - the new Land Cruiser Prado, the new Previa and the new and improved RAV4. Toyota's new models are scheduled to be launched to the Philippine market next month targeting the upper echelon of the market that seeks high performance and versatile vehicles that will fit their active lifestyle. The new Land Cruiser Prado makes a return to the market with an all new body and styling that guarantees sporty and agile performance in a class of its own with a promise of driving enjoyment and performance. The new Previa is the best bet in the minivan market with its sleek and sporty image as a high class vehicle. The RAV4 undergoes a fresh and dramatic change with a new athletic form that guarantees sporty and agile performance in a class of its own.

Toyota's new Mobile Lifestyle offer the market a new way of living with its capacity and functionality designed to suit its owners who all crave for the freedom to go in style to any destination. The most luxurious model in the line up, the new Land Cruiser Prado marks Toyota's return to the top end, premium 4 Wheel Drive sport utility vehicle segment. The Prado boasts of a cutting edge body design that features distinct headlamps and grille combined with a large, solid looking front bumper that depicts the feeling of solid strength. Added to this bold and luxurious image are rear combination lamps and large power door mirrors meticulously engineered to achieve a greater effect. The Prado's rack and pinion steering gear uses a hollow rack bar that mechanically changes gear rates for a smoother response and superior handling.

The elegant, yet powerful appeal of the Prado's interior is enhanced by the strong vertical theme of its instrument panel, complementing the sculpted facade of the new dashboard and the large center cluster switches, not to mention the 4-spoke leather steering wheel to perfect the interior's overall appeal. The Prado's power features in its windows, door locks, and side mirrors enhance overall functionality, while its distinct multi information meter guarantees fuel economy, speed monitoring, potential cruising time, and driving time. Adding an extra touch of luxury and function are the power remote controlled driver and passenger seats equipped with heater controls.

To top it all up the Prado prides itself with a robust 3.0 liter turbo diesel, electronic fuel injected engine that provides unparalleled performance and fuel efficiency, a powertrain complemented with double wishbone independent front suspension, and a 4-Link type rear suspension. Priced at P2,530,000.00 for the VX variant with automatic transmission and P2,430,000.00 for the manual transmission variant, the PRADO is available in five luxurious colors: Frost White, Thermalyte, Champagne, and Raven Black.

Toyota's new minivan, the Previa, will be setting a trend in the mini van segment by living up to the most important aspects in weekend driving. May it be a long out of town trip or a simple afternoon picnic in the park, the Previa, with its bigger space, an aerodynamic look and image, a stylish and comfortable interior, and a sense of luxury is the vehicle of choice.

The Previa's bold front exterior features the 4-light type multi reflector headlamp, an electrical remote controlled door mirrors, and an automatic sliding door closer, all combined to perfect not only a futuristic image, but a sporty minivan as well. Features such as a multi purpose seat layout, a 4-spoke type steering wheel, and a double layer front and rear air conditioner and heater pamper its occupants within the comforts of a spacious interior.

Beneath the new Previa's sleek body is a powerful 2.4 liter 16 valve DOHC 2AZ FE engine with the VVT-i system. The new Previa, priced at P1,580,000.00 for the automatic transmission is available in four elegant colors: Lithium, Sand Dune, Frost White, and Deep Fahrenheit.

The all-time favorite small SUV, the RAV4 just got even better with a host of new and exciting features that's bound to inject adrenaline to everyday driving. The new RAV4's sporty exterior is highlighted by the new front grille design that comes with a square-shaped horizontal bar, a multi reflector halogen lamp with a housing that contains the oval turn signal with white lenses. It also has new large front fog lamps set into the aggressive, color keyed front bumper.

Its interior boasts of fashionable, white faced meter gauges, and a new two tone black and gray scheme that further enhances the roomy interior. Improved dual SRS Airbags in both the driver's and front passenger seats are also added as safety features. Powered by its 1ZZ-FE 1.8 liter double overhead camshaft, electronically fuel injected engine with the VVT-i system, the RAV comes with a very attractive price tag of P978,000.00 for the 4X2 manual transmission, and P1,178,000.00 for the 4X4 automatic transmission. The RAV4 is available in six rugged colors: Freedom White, Raven Black, Surf Blue, Thermalyte, Graphite, and Sand Dune. Who says one cannot unwind during the rush hour? Simply driving a head turning RAV4 to compliment the attitude is enough unwinding.

Toyota Motor Philippines has proven its commitment of continuing service to its customers in its 15 years of existence as the number one car company in the Philippines. With the launching of the Toyota Mobile Lifestyle, the company hopes to share this passion by giving the market a line up of vehicles that expresses their lifestyle and set the direction for Toyota in the future. For more information on the new line up of Toyota's Mobile Lifestyle vehicles the RAV4, the Previa, and the PRADO, please visit your nearest authorized Toyota dealer or log on to www.toyota.com.ph.

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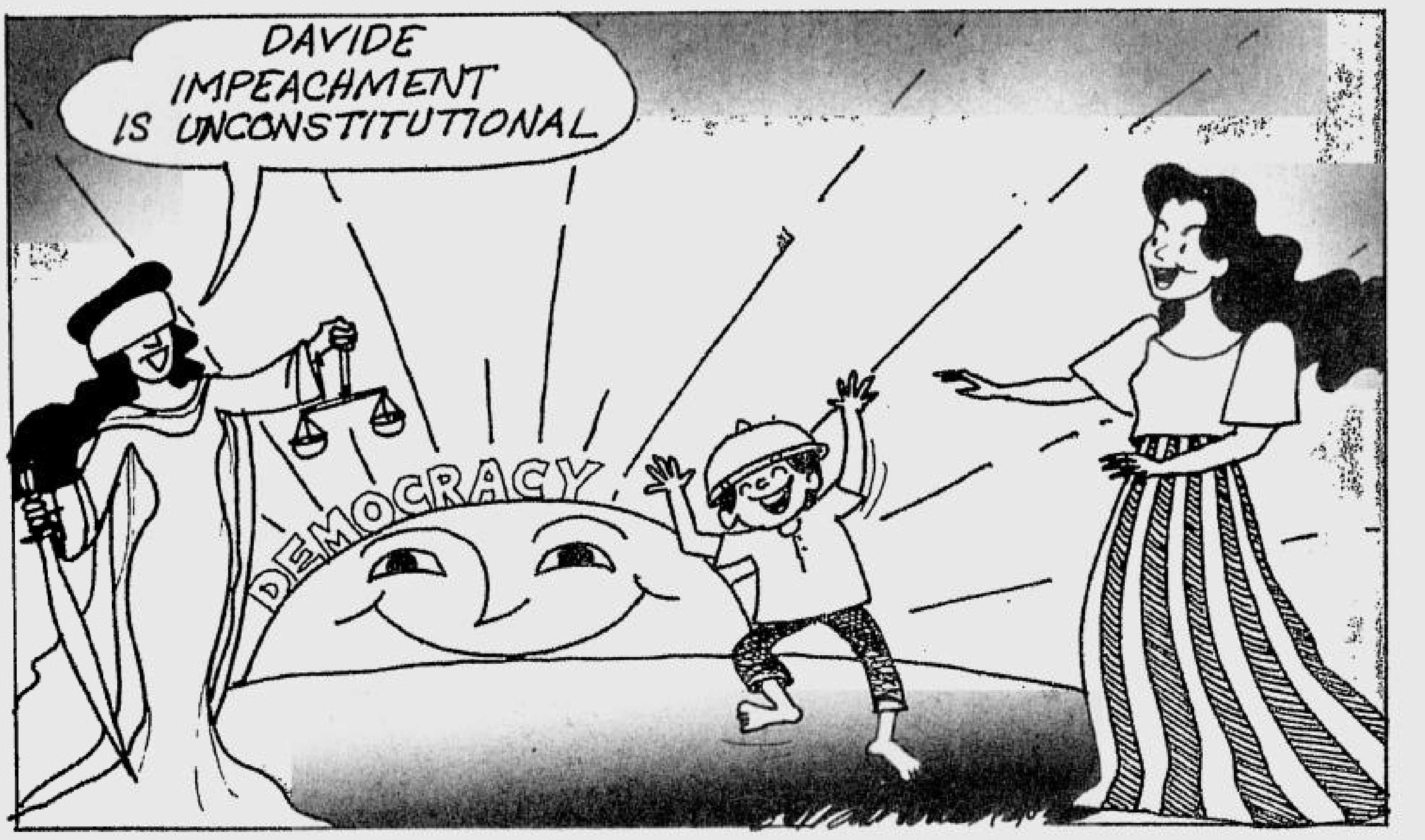


From heel to hero

EDITORIAL

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia could not find a "win-win' solution to the constitutional crisis looming on the horizon. But he found instead what most leaders crave for but only a few are privileged to receive: the gratitude and respect of the nation. With the House of Representatives just one step away from a head-on collision with the Supreme Court, De Venecia led the House majority in stopping the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and averted what could have been a national calamity.

It was not the easiest thing to do for a politician who has gotten where he is through consensus seeking and coalition building. Foiled in their attempt to send the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate because of the sudden adjournment of the session before the All Saints' Day recess, congressmen belonging to the Nationalist People's Coalition and their allies in other parties, including De Venecia's own Lakas-CMD, had at first whispered and then openly talked about unseating the Speaker. De Venecia had to appease them by vowing to "defend the territorial and political integrity" of the House especially after the Court asked all the parties to maintain the status quo. That would have put the House in direct defiance of the Court.

On what was to be the day of reckoning—Monday—the. Court raised the stakes even higher when it ruled by a vote of 13 to 1 that Davide's second impeachment was unconstitutional. De Venecia managed to pull the nation from the brink that very same day and the next when he led the House in voting 115 to 77 to follow the decision of the Supreme Court.

De Venecia explained that unlike before when the House had to contend with a status-quo order, the Court, with its decision, had come down hard with a "sledgehammer." If the House were to defy that ruling, he said in effect, then the final decision could rest with those who had the guns. "Whose decision will the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police follow?" he asked.

The answer to that question was very clear to the official who would have had to issue the orders in case of a standoff. President Macapagal-Arroyo declared unequivocally that it was her "solemn duty" to respect the decision of the Supreme Court and to "enforce any directive issued by it."

To complete the isolation of the House, or more precisely its 77 members who kept pushing for impeachment, Senate President Franklin Drilon said he would abide by the decision of the Court. As he had earlier indicated, that meant that the Senate would not accept an impeachment complaint that had been found to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Had the NPC congressmen and their allies prevailed, the House would have found itself alone, ignored by the other half of Congress and in conflict with the two other branches of government, with an impeachment complaint that was as worthless and silly as the rantings of some pro-impeachment lawmakers. Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras, for instance, said: "We don't care about the Court decision. We have already ruled that we will not recognize it." (Since Paras and his ilk have nowhere to go with their impeachment complaint, they ought to consider emigrating to a country where their every word would be accepted as law.)

If the House has any saving grace during this sorry episode, it is the fact that sanity prevailed in the end. When the Supreme Court speaks out on questions of law, everyone must follow—even lawmakers who believe they are a law unto themselves. To paraphrase De Venecia, everyone is "constrained to respect the decision of the Supreme Court."

De Venecia redeemed himself from the folly of trying to keep his post at any cost by standing firmly on the side of what is legal and constitutional and leading the majority in the House in bowing to the majesty of the law as the Court defined it. Former Economic Planning Secretary Solita Monsod, who is no fan of the Speaker, put it very well: De Venecia took a stand that could ruin him politically, and by doing so "he ceased to be a politician and became a statesman."

If his change of heart were to ultimately cost him his job, De Venecia can perhaps take comfort in receiving that supreme accolade, which is reserved for only a very select few.

Be glad the crisis is over

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ALTHOUGH I don't agree that the second impeachment complaint is unconstitutional because the first one had been duly "initiated," I am glad the crisis is over and that the House and the Senate will respect the decision of the Supreme Court. The less contentious reason for declaring the complaint unconstitutional is that the signatures of more than one-third of the House members were not on the complaint itself, as the Constitution requires, but on the endorsement. The Constitution requires that a complaint, to be valid, should be signed by at least one-third or 76 members of the House of Representatives. The second complaint was signed only by Representatives Gilbert Teodoro and Felix Fuentebella. The rest signed "resolutions of endorsements." These signers were mere endorsers, not complainants. But the Constitution said "complainants." The complaint was defective.

This defect was pointed out by lawyers Romulo Makalintal and Pete Cuadra in their petition for intervention. Their view was "echoed by Justice Regalado Maambong who said that the resolution of one-third of the members of the House "as endorsers is not the resolution of impeachment contemplated by the Constitution, such resolution being necessary only from at least one member whenever a citizen files a verified impeachment complaint."

The Court emphasized that it was only Makalintal and Cuadra who "raised this issue as a ground for invalidating the second impeachment complaint." Nevertheless, it ruled that that ground could not be the main basis "for deciding the instant consolidated petitions (since it) would not only render the efforts of the original petitioners in GR No. 160262 but the efforts presented by other petitioners as well."

Naturally, Makalintal and Cuadra are floating on air. They issued a statement that they are "gratified by the thought that (they, in their) own small way, have contributed to the reasonable and justifiable resolution of a very important constitutional issue."

Since there is no complaint for impeachment nor any resolution on impeachment signed by at least one-third of the members of the House, the two said, there could be no valid Articles of Impeachment transmitted by the House to the Senate for trial.

"Even without the withdrawals (of signatures) of those who signed the 'resolution of endorsement,' the complaint signed by Teodoro and Fuentebella and the said resolutions of impeachment cannot constitute as valid Articles of Impeachment. Otherwise, it would be gross ignorance of the Constitution if the House would still send those constitutionally defective documents to the Senate for trial," they concluded.

* * *

Meanwhile, I would like to quote former Sen. Raul Roco's brief statement on the Supreme Court decision:

"Every patriotic Filipino should support the decision of the Supreme Court. It reaffirms democracy in the Philippines and renews its strength. Truly, the Supreme Court is the last bulwark of constitutionalism and Rule of Law.

"There is nothing to fear from this assertion of judicial supremacy. The judiciary is the weakest department. It does not have the power of the purse that belongs to Congress. It does not have the power of the sword that belongs to the executive. It merely has the power of the pen. But in giving light to the people, it gives life to the search for truth and justice."

And in that search, may I add, that all the members of the judiciary should not forget (and the Supreme Court should keep reminding all) that the judiciary is there not to punish primarily but to give justice to every man.

* * *

While celebrating the triumph of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and the Supreme Court, let us not downgrade the efforts of the so-called Brat Pack who spearheaded the impeachment move. They truly believed that graft may have been committed in the Judiciary Development Fund—a suspicion that many other people feel—and that something has to be done about it—although I believe that impeachment may be too harsh for it.

We should be glad that we still have idealistic young people in Congress and not only the old, jaded, callous, selfish, greedy, cunning and ambitious *trapos* that compose the great majority of congressmen. In fact, we should have more of these idealistic young people. They should not be discouraged by this first setback. It was all for the good of the country. If they had succeeded, the results could have been worse.

Hopefully, this crisis has taught officials of our constitutional offices with fiscal autonomy to be more careful and judicious in spending the people's money. We're running out of it.

* * *

Any way you look at it, former Air Transportation Office chief Panfilo Villaruel and his aide, Navy Ltsg. Ricardo Catchillar, did not deserve to die. They were not threatening anybody. Members of the SWAT team were not in danger. They were already shouting "We surrender! We surrender!" There was no justification to shoot them down.

Even assuming they had to be disarmed, the rule is that they be shot not to kill them, but merely to incapacitate. The fact that both of them had multiple gunshot wounds—the face of Villaruel was shot to pieces—shows that the SWAT team did not want them to live.

It could be just panic, or a wrong estimate of the situation, but it could be an indication that the team members were not well trained. Restraint is as much proof of one's skill as the ability to kill. What is undeniable is that two persons who should not have died are now dead.

Disaster waiting to happen

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

BY ITSELF Panfilo Villaruel's takeover of the Naia tower offers little to worry about. I notice that it did not get a single column from the INQUIRER columnists last Monday, except for a small item from Bel Cunanan. It couldn't have been the deadline, everyone had the whole weekend to contemplate it. All of the commentators seem to have thought there were weightier matters to think about. By itself, Villaruel's action looks like an isolated, and quite bizarre, incident best consigned to the same shelf as the Lapiang Malaya attack on Malacañang.

But taken in conjunction with other things, it raises serious grounds for anxiety. These other things include the Pulse Asia survey last September which showed that 55 percent of respondents believed the Oakwood mutineers had legitimate grievances. When the INQUIRER printed a headline story suggesting that constituted support for them, Pepe Miranda hastened to explain in a letter it wasn't so at all. The 55 percent, he said, merely expressed sympathy for the mutineers' plight.

"(T)he plurality of Filipinos (39 percent)," Miranda wrote, "still considers what the Oakwood mutineers did to be wrong, with only 22 percent thinking otherwise and another 36 percent being 'undecided' about soldiers resorting to a mutiny in having grievances attended to by government."

But as I suggested then, that is by no means comforting. The number of undecided is alarming—36 percent—and if you add that to the number of active endorsers of the mutiny (22 percent), you have 58 percent, the majority of Filipinos. That cannot discourage coup plotters from plotting, or carrying out their plots.

I don't know what figures Villaruel's case will get if a survey were made about it. I suspect most Filipinos will condemn the means even more stridently—seizing an airport control tower, unlike seizing a building in Makati, endangers lives—but will sympathize with his grievances equally more stridently. The last particularly given the taped sounds of his dying gasps: that is the stuff of action movies, particularly those that end tragically for the (anti-)hero. That cannot be good news for this country.

It makes a military coup, or mutiny, even more possible even if it remains even more damnable. That Villaruel—and Ricardo Catchillar, a Navy lieutenant—were killed instantly instead of being allowed to surrender is not likely to dispel the threat of military action, individual or orchestrated, isolated or concerted, it is bound to intensify it. What it does, among other things, is exacerbate the fratricidal strife between cops and soldiers, up the ante on violence—the next incidents, if and when they happen, are not likely to end as peacefully as the Oakwood mutiny—and lay the psychological ground for future actions of the kind. The very short shelf life of the Villaruel incident in media suggests things like this are getting factored in speedily in the public mind. They are becoming par for the course.

And still those are nothing. Two other things offer downright incentives for a coup.

The first is that GMA is running again. When Pulse Asia made its survey in September, there was only public suspicion she would turn back on her word. But clearly GMA is not part of the solution, she is part of the problem. Or indeed the problem: the coup plots are prospering because of her in the first place. The failure of her civil society allies to draw out even a handful of people to Edsa to express "support for democracy" owed to it. It was an obvious call to support GMA. Most Filipinos support democracy, but not GMA. Had she reaffirmed her vow there and then not to run, she would have gotten the crowd she needed. The issue would have been clear: democracy vs. a coup, the republic vs. its wreckers. By not doing so, she turned the equation into GMA vs. the mutineers, a choice between a rock and a hard place.

The suspicion she would run again is now a certainty. That can make for very leaden feet when she cries for help once again.

The second thing to worry about is the House's attempt to unseat Chief Justice Hilario Davide. What makes it worrisome is not that any impasse between the legislature and the judiciary makes for instability, as those endorsing GMA's "covenant" have been warning about. I've never worried about a just cause destabilizing things: it ought to. Truth and justice destabilize only tyranny, not democracy. But that is precisely the problem: What we have in the House's attempt to oust Davide is not a just cause. It is not even a truthful one.

What it is in fact is a coup. No better than the one some military officers are contemplating. Albeit one that is being prosecuted with the tyranny of numbers rather than the tyranny of arms. But it involves the same use of force, the same use of coercion, the same use of public power for private ends. The ease with which the congressmen have switched from ousting Davide for swearing in GMA to ousting him for apparent graft must suggest they are out to get him at any cost. That most assuredly cannot discourage coup plotters from embarking on the same course.

You have the prime source of current unrest desperately trying to cling to power, a House trying to mount a coup of its own, a public sympathetic to the grievances of mutineers, if not the mutineers themselves, media factoring in such things as people taking over airport towers and being gunned down while surrendering: you have a disaster waiting to happen.

If we prevent a coup at all—as we must, at all costs too—it won't be because of our leaders, who seem determined only to stick to their folly. It will be in spite of them. When we do get to the May 2004 elections, by the grace of God or luck, let's look back on that.

And armed with the ballot, make damn sure it doesn't happen again.

Denouement on the House floor

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia survived a head-on challenge to his leadership of the House of Representatives on Monday, when he quashed a move seeking the reorganization of the House after he dramatically asserted he would abide by the Supreme Court decision, which declared that the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. violated the Constitution.

In a plenary session of the House charged with high drama, the Speaker asserted his leadership by marshalling the majority of House members behind his nearly unilateral decision to bow to the Court's ruling. When Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, one of the signers of the impeachment complaint, saw that the Speaker had the numbers at the plenary session, he put his tail between his legs and abandoned his motion to declare all House positions vacant.

Nothing can be more emphatic about the determination of the Speaker to back the legal authority of the Court's 13-1 ruling than the Speaker's unequivocal statement that "I am constrained to respect the decision of the Supreme Court." With this stand, he put his head on the block for a showdown with Eduardo Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition, which composed the bulk of a third of House members who signed the impeachment complaint.

In the eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation, the NPC, with its allies, including some fence-straddling Lakas congressmen and Dilangalen's Puwersa ng Masa, identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada, blinked and their bellicose threat to use their numbers and force the transmittal of the complaint to the Senate, despite the Court's ruling, melted. In forcing a showdown and calling the NPC's bluff, the Speaker not only put his leadership on the line but also risked a break-up of the Lakas-NPC coalition. In deciding to obey the Supreme Court, the Speaker wheeled the Lakas power of numbers behind it, demonstrating that if the party's leadership asserts its will, it did not need the NPC and could afford to shatter the coalition without causing political damage to the party. The Speaker took the risk and grabbed the bull by the horns in his decision, after he discarded an earlier demagogue's pledge to the House and his NPC allies that he would push through with the impeachment complaint to the Senate, should the Court strike it down as unconstitutional.

When the Court, (determined to exercise jurisdiction over petitions seeking its intervention to decide whether or not to declare the complaint violated the Constitution) indeed, struck it down, as unconstitutional, the Speaker appeared to have been impressed by the gravity of the 13-1 ruling of the Court, indicating the solidity of the Court in defending its constitutional duty as the final arbiter of constitutional issues involving separation of powers.

The Court's stern message proclaimed by its decision was apparently not lost on the Speaker or House members, regardless of party lines. In declaring that the House should respect its decision, the Court warned: "...There is no reason to believe that any of the branches of government will behave in a precipitate manner and risk social upheaval, violence, chaos and anarchy by encouraging disrespect for the fundamental law of the land."

Squarely putting the responsibility for provoking civil conflict on the House if it disobeyed, the Court made clear that a constitutional crisis should not deter it from ruling on the issue. The Court said that, "the possibility of the occurrence of a constitutional crisis is not a reason for this Court to refrain from upholding the Constitution in all impeachment cases." It emphasized that "justices cannot abandon their constitutional duties just because their action may start, if not precipitate a crisis."

The Court served the lesson that "such an argument... also presumes that the coordinate branches of government would behave in a lawless manner and not do their duty under the law to uphold the Constitution and obey the laws of the land."

This lesson found its mark and echoed in the Speaker's own statement to House members, saying, "We either respect or defy the decision of the Supreme Court... But whose decision will the Armed forces of the Philippines or the Philippine National Police follow?"

The Speaker's decision was made in the face of a clear warning by the titular party leader, President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has made it clear that she would use her executive powers to enforce the Court's decision. Emphasizing the point that she did not rule out calling in the army and the national police to enforce the decision, the President in a statement read at Camp Crame, the PNP headquarters, said it was her "solemn duty" to respect the decision of the high court. She warned: "Let no one misunderstand or doubt our resolve to protect the Constitution."

If the House had persisted in forcing the transmittal of the complaint to the Senate, despite the Court's decision, it was not far-fetched that recalcitrant congressmen would be arrested.

The somersault of the Speaker and the President to crack the party whip on Lakas members to line up support for the Court's decision, was in sharp contrast to their earlier waffling manifested by their failure to act early to quash the impeachment move before it collected more than 76 signatures.

Both demonstrated leadership failure in not taking preemptive action, acting only when the issue was developing into a full-blown constitutional crisis.

By meeting head-on the first blatant challenge that tested his leadership, the Speaker has emerged from the showdown in a stronger position to hold the party together and to stand down blandishment from the NPC, Lakas' partner which, during this stand-off, had virtually held a pistol to the head of Lakas and took the Supreme Court hostage.

Meeting Villaruel

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT was the afternoon of the Oakwood siege. Some friends and I had rashly braved the rains and the likelihood of checkpoints to make like "uziseros" and do some rubbernecking at the site of the military misadventure.

But we were stopped in our tracks at the corner of Makati Avenue and Pasay Road by government soldiers who said no one, and absolutely no one, would be allowed to enter the Makati Commercial Center. Prudently, we decided to cross the street toward Greenbelt, eerily deserted at a time of day when it was usually filled with officegoers unwinding at the end of a hard day's work. The Ayala security people met us at the entrance of Greenbelt 3, saying no one was allowed either in the vicinity. Thwarted, we decided to retreat to the coffee shop of New World Hotel, to continue our long-distance vigil via television.

It was there, at the hotel coffee shop, that I met former Air Transportation Office Chief Panfilo Villaruel. At first we ignored him and his group, since we were intent on following the unfolding events just a few meters away. But someone in our group knew Villaruel, and after he had approached them and exchanged some talk, he called me over to meet the former ATO chief.

"I'm here as a concerned citizen," he said when I asked what he and his companions were doing in the virtually deserted hotel. But unlike "real" *uziseros* like us who viewed the Oakwood incident as something akin to spectator sport, Villaruel seemed unusually intent on following the denouement of the hotel takeover. He also let on that he knew a lot more about the doomed exercise than he was willing to divulge.

* * *

"I KNOW some of them," he confided, referring to the adventurists. "And I believe them when they say they are driven by nothing more than disgust at our political system. There is really too much corruption in our government now," he said. I nodded, mainly to encourage him to talk some more but taking him only half-seriously. What he was saying, after all, was being echoed all over town in coffee shops and parties and wherever two or three Filipinos were gathered.

The young officers, he added, had tried to dialogue with military and civilian officials before occupying Oakwood. One of them (the self-appointed spokesman Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes III, it turned out), had even talked to the President herself. *"Pero tinarayan daw siya* (but she reportedly scolded him)," Villaruel revealed, laughing ruefully.

"There's so much corruption going around, and the young officers, not just them, are getting restless," he warned. "Would it be possible for me to get in touch with you and tell you about the corruption that I know about?" I said yes, but hesitated about giving him the number of my cell phone, telling him instead that he could get in touch with me through the INQUIRER. He handed me his card and I pocketed it, wondering if he was a genuine source or just a retired military man intent on staying in the game even if only peripherally.

* * *

NOW I know there was more to his relationship with the young "Magdalo" officers than just an elder's concern, as well as the depth of his despair and anger.

I found out about his death and his puzzling takeover of the ATO tower only last Sunday, as I boarded the plane home to Manila from Nagoya. I immediately recognized his face and name, and recalled with a shudder that it was under the shadow of a similar "exercise" that I had met Villaruel for the first and last time.

But where the young officers could at least lay claim to temporary heroics and the sympathies of not a few citizens sharing their disgust at the corrupt "system," Villaruel and his companion, Navy Lt. Ricardo Catchillar, seem more like the victims of tragi-comic foolhardiness. I am conflicted about having missed the live broadcast of his interview with "Igan" Arnold Clavio, which managed to record his dying gasps. On one hand, as a journalist, I rue missing such a compelling moment of history-in-the-making. On the other hand, having met the man personally, I'm glad I didn't get to hear his sad, tragic final moments.

Still, there seems to be more behind Villaruel's takeover than just an old man's bravado. Clearly, there was an even bigger tempest brewing, as even civilian and military officials conceded. But like the young officers whose misadventure he so closely and avidly followed that afternoon we met, Villaruel (and Catchillar), too, was ultimately left to face the consequences. Who else will follow in this bizarre and dangerous plot?

* * *

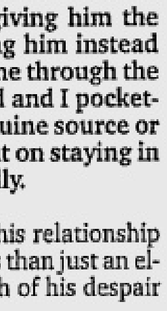
I AM convinced there is a plot unwinding here, with the ultimate aim of destabilizing the Macapagal government and ushering in chaos, thereby creating a vacuum of leadership to which any number of ambitious and self-righteous "saviors" can hardly wait to rush in.

What is the grand design behind the Oakwood incident, the Jose Pidal controversy, the impeachment of the Chief Justice and Villaruel's last stand? These incidents have many things in common, particularly the intended consequence of painting a picture of the Philippines as unraveling from the center, unstable, headed toward collapse. The attack on the Supreme Court, the last remaining bastion of institutional credibility and integrity in our government, seems particularly aimed at removing any sort of ballast in the system.

I have no doubts about Villaruel's sincerity, or the genuineness of his anger at corruption in government, which he had met first-hand, as he so eagerly told me. But by his very anger and courage, could he not have also been playing into the hands of plotters who did not share the same ideals?

Nena Saguil's paintings

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONGOING at the Ateneo Gallery is a retrospective exhibit of the works of Nena Saguil (1914-1994). She lived abroad, longest in Paris, more than half her life, and despite this long absence from the home country she remains part of Philippine art history as one of the postwar "modern" painters. She was part of that group that included now stellar names in the art market: Vicente Manansala, Romeo Tabuena, Fernando Zobel, Arturo Luz, Hernando R. Ocampo and Anita Magsaysay-Ho who started their careers exhibiting in Lyd Arguilla's Philippine Art Gallery or PAG. Despite this impressive association, Saguil simply remains a name to the present generation, many of whom after seeing a handful of reproductions of her work dismissed her as a painter of amoebae. Indeed, some of her meticulously done paintings and drawings look like a world seen from the other end of a microscope but this is just a slice of her work. Few indeed are those who have entered her world of abstraction and circles.

The Ateneo retrospective may seem small compared to those mounted at the Metropolitan Museum or the CCP, yet the careful curatorial choices made by Eric Torres from works extant in art collections in Manila provide the full range of Saguil's work. Arranged chronologically, the works also give insights into her artistic development. It is a show one must see because some of the works are exhibited for the first time. Besides, getting all these paintings together again under one roof will be very difficult.

In 1956 Saguil, after a study grant in Spain and France, decided to settle down in Paris, renouncing a comfortable life and growing fame in Manila, and started a new one in the City of Lights. Reduced to relative obscurity, she gave up the chance to become "famous" let alone rich, during the Manila art boom of the 1970s.

Saguil lived in a small flat in St. Germain des Pres, that was once the site of a medieval Benedictine abbey now a chic district dotted with boutiques of name luxury goods, art galleries and bookstores. Just down the road are the famous cafés, Les Deux Magots and Café de Flore where some tourists try very hard to soak up culture and reflected glory in the seats once warmed by the likes of Salvador Dali, Jean Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir. In the heart of St. Germain des Pres, in a small *esquinita* called Rue de Ciseaux, or Scissors Street, one entered a door marked No. 5 to leave the noise and glamour and enter the quiet world of Saguil.

It was 1984 when I first entered that fortress of solitude. After rushing past the landlord's ferocious guard dog, the fear and adrenalin forced me to run up a spiral staircase to the small third floor apartment that comprised Saguil's living room, dining room and studio all rolled into one. It is a place where the comic-strip character Little Dot would feel at home; the paintings, whether on a normal square canvas or any other irregular shape, were bursting with dots and circles. Even her cabinets, telephone table and stool were painted with cool pastel circles. As she was expecting me, the door was left ajar and upon entering I saw the small woman with spectacles close her Bible (by then she was a member of Jehovah's Witnesses) and she ushered me in. *Merienda* was prepared, her specialty being chocolate pudding, and I noticed that even the dining table was covered with her signature dots.

Solitude, she explained, was part of her lifestyle: "In the beginning it was hard. I was quite lonely. I come from a family of ten children... Somehow it was when I would remember our dinner table that I would become lonely. *Tumutulo ang luha ko.* Here I was, alone in a dark place and eating on a little table. When I eat I remember my past life. "I was a special student at the UP because I didn't want to be in a Catholic girl's school. I didn't know there was going to be a war, so I never finished school. We were already open to modern art and the works of, say, Pablo Picasso, and I couldn't understand why we had to paint like Fabian de la Rosa and Fernando Amorsolo. I thought Amorsolo was a very commercial painter and De la Rosa a very good one, but he was too serious for me. I felt they were not of my time, so I tagged along with Hernando Ocampo and his group. They were the old ones, *saling pusa lang ako.*

"My parents had some property, so I did not have to work for a living, all I did was paint, and in the afternoons I would watch over the Philippine Art Gallery as a volunteer. *Walang sweldo*, because the gallery had no money. It's a good thing Fernando Zobel was around, he would give Lyd Arguilla checks to keep the place going every month. I didn't worry about selling my works then. I don't worry about selling them now. *Mabuti ngayon tumaas ang presyo ng* art, but we are already old. Many young people nowadays think of money right away. In my time *mabuti kung makatinda ako ng* sixty pesos! Art and poverty do mix. Van Gogh and Gaugin gave up everything to paint." Walking through the Ateneo Gallery seeing works I had first seen in Saguil's Paris studio almost two decades ago made me look back to a time when she taught me, by word and example, the value and results of solitude.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

A Fil-Am life

HIGH BLOOD

Dulcedeblia Almoradie

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

THE PHILIPPINES is a country of beauty, love and joy, a great and wonderful place to live in even with the downfall of our economy. A Filipino is hospitable, friendly, knowledgeable and ingenious. He is creative, industrious and hard working and survives, lives and makes the most of what he has under most conditions. A Filipina is a thing of beauty. She is petite, cute and charming. There is always a feature in her, like her eyes, her lips, her hair or maybe her complexion that is lovely to look at. She is brown and beautiful. During the time of Jose Rizal she was shy, unassuming and demure, a good and religious wife or a mother who loved deeply and devoutly. For these modern times she has become more aggressive and up to date. Not the shy Maria Clara-type anymore, but still a Filipina of beauty, with plenty of devotion to the one she loves.

Filipinos live spoiled lives with household help, especially when both husband and wife are working. The maids do the cooking, the laundry and house cleaning. There are *yayas* (nursemaids) who take care of the children while the father and mother are at work. There are houseboys who do the heavier work in the house and there are drivers. Having maids is part of a normal life in the Philippines. When you get home from work, you do not have to worry about dinner because the maids have it ready. All you do is rest and watch TV before going to bed. In the morning you do not rush to make breakfast because everything is served on the table. They clean and wash the cars before you drive to work or the drivers do so. The maids go to the local markets to shop for food. When they have stayed with you for a long time you consider them as part of your family. The children treat them as their second mothers and the other maids as their older sisters. The maids and *yayas* learn to love the children as their own and sometimes spoil them more than you do.

The big problem in the Philippines is traffic. It is a hassle to go to any place especially if you drive your own car. There is no place to park and it takes a long time before you reach your destination. We went to Baguio by car from Sucat Road, Parañaque on a long holiday weekend and it took us 12 hours to get there and the same amount of time coming back. Traffic was terrible. However, you see beautiful scenic views, and you can get all the fresh fruits and vegetable from the roadside vendors along the way. These scenic views are wonderful. The rice terraces in Banaue are a pleasure to behold; likewise the Chocolate Hills in Bohol. No other country in the world can offer the kind of beaches we have in the Philippines.

American life is also wonderful. The well-to-do have housemaids, houseboys or drivers. Almost everybody has clothes washers, clothes dryers and dishwashers. You can hire cleaning ladies by the day or the hour when you need them. There are all kinds of cleaning materials in the market that are advertised on TV, radio and posters everywhere. You make breakfast at home before going to work or buy it on your way to work and eat it at your desk. You run to the subway stations going to work and do the same going home. At night you make dinner and do the dishes before going to bed. Every second counts in America, especially in New York which they say has the fastest pace of life and where everyone seems to be always on the go.

Our body easily adjusts to any style of living. My husband and I are now retired, and when we go home to the Philippines we have the maids who do our housework. In New York we do everything ourselves. We are now accustomed to having two different lifestyles. We have adjusted to the reality of having maids and not having them. When we are in the Philippines we look forward to going home to New York and when we are in New York we also look forward to going home to the Philippines. We live the Filipino way of life and eat Filipino food in the Philippines and we live the American and Filipino ways of life and eat American and Filipino food in America. It will be good to have dual citizenship now that it has become a law.

There is also a lot of traffic in New York. Going out and coming in is not easy, especially during the holidays when people go on vacations. The Long Island Expressway is called the largest parking lot in New York because it is always congested. If you want entertainment, you go to Manhattan where there are a lot of Broadway shows. The city is 24 hours on the go and it never sleeps.

Today, it is not as easy as before to find work in America because the economy is down not only here but also all over the world. It is now much harder to start life as an immigrant. House renting and buying are not the same as before because you have to show references and bank accounts and your credit standing is reviewed. They are very expensive too. The tenant pays the real estate broker a month's rent instead of the landlord. In spite of all these, small paying jobs will be able to sustain your everyday living and the rich and the poor eat the same kind of food.

In all respects, America is still the land of opportunity and a great place to live in. It is the country to which people from all over the world want to go and start new lives, even those who have good paying jobs in their own countries. It is the land of opportunity and freedom.

Last July 4, 2003, we watched the fireworks from a condo of our friend in Manhattan which were lighted from four barges on the Hudson River. It was said to be the biggest and grandest fireworks of all, and it was.

We had a big blackout in New York and neighboring states last August 2003. In the Philippines this would be taken lightly because blackouts occur very often, but not in America. It happened when the temperature was 90 degrees Fahrenheit and no air conditioner could work and it was a big disaster. Cell phones were not working. People walked over the bridges from Manhattan to go home because no subway trains were running and then they were picked up by relatives or friends or they walked the whole way to their houses. They did so quietly and politely and accepted it, especially when they found out that it was not a terrorist attack like in 9/11. New Yorkers were again very helpful and polite and offered food and drinks to those who were walking. It showed once more how good and helpful they can be in times of need.

The second anniversary of 9/11 was remembered. The names of all the people who were killed were read by some of the children who had lost their loved ones. The occasion was well attended and very solemn. I cried watching it on TV because my daughter and I almost died during that disaster. It will be in my family's mind forever.

Dulcedehlia Almoradie is 67 years old. She worked for the Bank of Nova Scotia in New York and is now retired.

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Traffic schemes that work should be permanent

THE TRAFFIC system utilizing U-turns being implemented along Quezon City has admittedly done a lot in easing and speeding up the flow of traffic. Although there are congestions at the U-turn slots, these are tolerable, unlike before when motorists had to wait longer for the green light, especially in four-way intersections. For this, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando deserves commendation.

But there is one important aspect that Fernando might have overlooked—and that is the safety of pedestrians. While traffic flows freely at the now closed (barricaded) intersections, the pedestrians are now exposed to the danger of being hit by speeding vehicles as drivers completely ignore the red light or give way to pedestrians who cross. Gone are the MMDA traffic officers who usually man these intersections.

This wanton disregard for traffic lights and signs, however, is nothing new in our culture. Traffic lights may as well be merely street decorations. Traffic officers position themselves in "strategic" spots where motorists cannot see them and, as if by magic, they suddenly appear in the middle of the street brandishing their citation ticket books the moment an unsuspecting motorist beats the red light or a PUV jeepney stops at a no loading/unloading zone.

Constructing an overpass I guess, is not an option at this time. Apparently, the U-turn system is still in its experimental stage. I hope that the project is not just another bright idea hatched for short-term purposes in aid of election.

I believe that putting back traffic enforcers in blocked intersections to assist pedestrians in crossing the street is still the best option to assure their safety.

I hope this time, we find no temporariness in what Chairman Fernando hopes to accomplish in putting some sense and order in our chaotic traffic system.

—HERNAN G. NARVADEZ,
Fairview, Quezon City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Separate and distinct steel firms

THIS refers to the news item written by Doris C. Dumlao with the heading "Bacnotan Steel placed under rehabilitation receivership," (PDI, 10/24/03) pertinent portions of which we quote hereunder:

"The Makati Regional Trial Court has placed Phinma-controlled Bacnotan Steel Industries Inc., the country's largest manufacturer of steel billets and reinforcing bars, under rehabilitation receivership...

"The company has the following annual production capacity in its plant located in Calamba, Laguna: galvanizing lines—144,000 metric tons and color coating lines—33,000 metric tons."

In this connection, please be informed that the above-mentioned galvanizing and color-coating line facilities located in Calamba, Laguna are owned and operated by Union Galvasteel Corp., which is separate and distinct from and is not part of Bacnotan Steel Industries Inc., its plant being located in Calaca, Batangas.

We trust that you will rectify the error and wrong information in subject news release as it has created negative reactions from our bankers, suppliers, customers and the public in general.

—ARTHUR M. FLORENDO,
executive vice president,
Union Galvasteel Corp.,
Phinma Bldg., 166 Salcedo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Correct reading of COA report on Meralco

WE refer to the front-page article (and picture) in the INQUIRER of Nov. 3, 2003 in which a group of auditors of the Commission on Audit ("powerpuff girls") was reported to have been awarded the Civil Service Pag-asa ng Bayan Awards for having "found" that Meralco had "wrongly included income tax among the costs recoverable from consumers," thus resulting in a refund of about P30 billion to consumers. The connotation is that Meralco "overcharged" its customers, i.e. charged rates it was not authorized to do, and was "caught" by these COA auditors for doing so.

The purpose of this letter is not to disparage these COA auditors. Based on the criteria for the awards—performance on the job, personal integrity and teamwork; they are deserving, and we are happy for them.

We are writing this letter merely to set the record straight—that these COA auditors never claimed, in their report dated Feb. 11, 1997, that Meralco engaged in any wrongdoing. They recommended, based on their citations, that income taxes should not be allowed as an expense in computing return on rate base, contrary to the Energy Regulatory Board's practice and jurisprudence at the time. However, in their report, these auditors also reiterated the contrary jurisprudence that justified allowing income taxes as an operating expense (which the ERB had done in granting the provisional rate increase of 1994), but told the ERB that the decision on what approach to finally use was theirs to make. That was a professional way of doing their job and should be more than enough basis for an award. And, in that regard, we appreciate the comment by the COA auditors about the professionalism and cooperation extended by Meralco during the audit. That there was "heated" public debate about the issue of income taxes afterwards does not detract from the professionalism of both the COA auditors and their Meralco counterparts.

The ERB, in its decision in 1998, decided to follow the COA recommendation and reversed its own ruling of 1994. The 1998 ERB ruling was, however, appealed by Meralco to the Court of Appeals, which, in turn, upheld Meralco. Thus, Meralco continued to charge these rates until the Supreme Court decided with finality in 2003 to reverse the Court of Appeals and affirm the ERB ruling of 1998.

In other words, Meralco was duly authorized by the ERB and, subsequently, by the Court of Appeals to charge the rates which allowed income taxes as an operating expense, a policy and practice that the COA auditors recommended be changed. There was no COA finding of any irregularity on the part of Meralco. To suggest otherwise is, thus, unfair to Meralco and a disservice to these COA auditors.

The refunds now being given by Meralco were not due to any unauthorized billings (or what some grandstanding critics call "overcharging") but are simply the effect of the rollback order.

—JESUS P. FRANCISCO,
president, Meralco,
Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City

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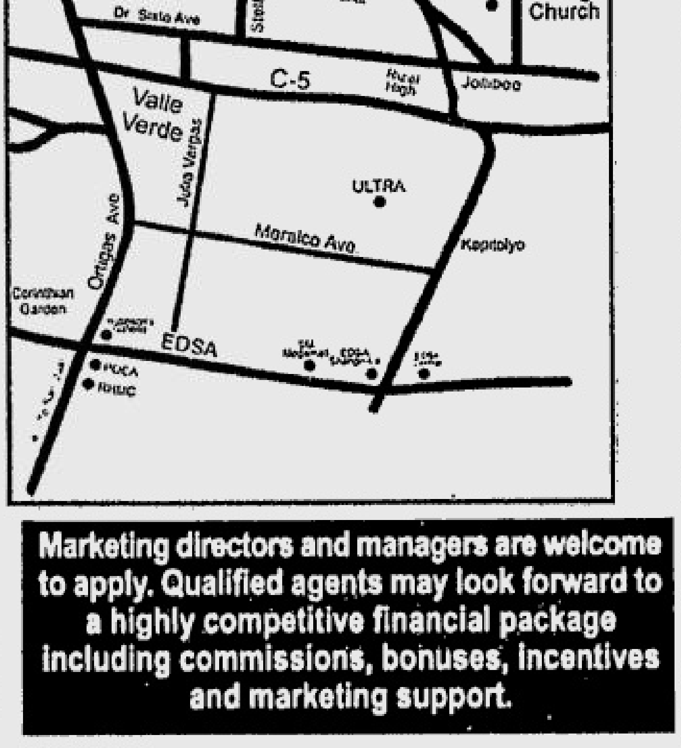

Overblown story of bats as big as cats

TUGUEGARAO City is not the source of bats as big as cats, contrary to the claim of a certain bat hunter named Rudy, in the article "Bats selling like hot cakes in Cagayan Valley" by Ben Moses Ebreo. (PDI, 10/26/03)

Tuguegerao City is rapidly catching up with urbanization. This regional center of Cagayan Valley is becoming thickly covered with mountain-high buildings and a growing population in an ecosystem incompatible to an overabundance of bats.

True, bats can be seen and appreciated for their awesome 15-minute flight at dusk and one of the protected features of the newly expanded protected area named Peñablanca Protected Landscapes (PPLS), the prime ecotourism destination of Cagayan Valley located in Peñablanca, Cagayan. The protected area was expanded by President Macapagal-Arroyo by virtue of Presidential Proclamation 484 on Oct. 6, 2003 from its original area of 4,136 hectares to approximately 118,000 hectares in order to protect and conserve the almost 200 cave systems, deep canyons and clear waters in its rivers and coasts and more importantly, its lush forest serving as watershed and habitat of unique and diverse wildlife species that include the endangered Philippine Eagle. There are only two known bat species in the protected area but none grow as big as cats or are threatened species, namely: the Luzon Pygmy Fruit Bat and the Insect Bat.

The local community does not only benefit from bats as ecotourism species but as livelihood as well for their guano, which people would collect from February to September and from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. only. There can, in no way, be a rampant bat hunting because the local people are aware of the economic and ecological benefits they get from bats. Intensive resource protection activities are jointly undertaken by the members of the Protected Area Management Bureau (PAMB), the local people, local officials and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). It would be impossible for the local community and the DENR not to detect any bat-hunting activities.

Even before the order of Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun to restaurant owners selling "exotic foods," we have been conducting an information campaign against illegal hunting and trade in wildlife as one of the regular activities of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Management Section of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro).

The DENR and the people of Peñablanca will not tolerate bat hunting.

—MONICO B. ANZIA,
officer in charge, Community Environment
and Natural Resources Office,
Department of Environment
and Natural Resources, Peñablanca, Cagayan

Housing going to waste

AS I commute from Las Piñas to Baclaran taking the Coastal Road, I always wonder whenever I see those vacant tenement houses along the Coastal Road.

These houses have been uninhabited for years and may start to deteriorate, if they have not yet. Who are they for? Can we not allocate those housing facilities to deserving soldiers?

—REMIGIO A. CHENG,
6 Melody St., Sta. Cecilia Subd.,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City

Correction

DUE to an inadvertence, we said in our editorial (PDI, 11/11/03) that the name of the solicitor general is Simeon Marcelo. It should have been Alfredo Benipayo. We apologize for the error.—**Ed.**

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Top Sayyaf leader slain in Jolo

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Authorities killed a ranking Abu Sayyaf leader during a brief gunfight in downtown Jolo on Monday evening, the military reported yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yapching, commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade, said Faizal Abbas, a deputy of Ghalib Andang's, was being arrested when killed.

Yapching said a team of soldiers and policemen had been searching for Abbas and finally found him in downtown Jolo around 6 p.m.

Abbas, who carried a bounty of P1 million, had been implicated in dozens of kidnappings perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf, including the Sipadan hostage crisis.

He was also tagged behind the subsequent kidnapping of some journalists who came to Sulu to cover the Sipadan crisis.

Yapching said the arresting team saw Abbas in front of the Nuridas Bakery along Serrantes Street and tried to peacefully take him in.

However, the Abu Sayyaf leader, along with at least two companions, allegedly fired at the arresting team.

"He resisted the arrest, took his firearm together with his two companions and an encounter ensued. Fortunately no civilian got hurt or killed in that encounter that happened in a public place," Yapching said.

The slain bandit leader's companion managed to escape but Yapching said the military believed they were also hurt in the 10-minute clash.

The arresting team recovered an M16 rifle from the slain bandit.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said Abbas was also wanted for the abduction of several French journalists three years ago in Jolo.

"He resisted arrest and a five-minute shootout ensued resulting in his instantaneous death. His companions managed to escape," said Lucero.

The US government has offered a $5 million reward for the capture of top Abu Sayyaf leaders, including Khadaffy Janjalani, Ghalib Andang, Radullan Sahiron and Isnilon Hapilon.

The United States has blacklisted the Abu Sayyaf, which claims to be fighting for a separate Islamic state in Mindanao, calling it a terrorist group with suspected links to the Al-Qaida network.

The US government has sent its troops to Basilan recently to help train Filipino soldiers in antiterrorism tactics.

The US troops also helped build projects on the island-province.

Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau and TJ Burgonio with Inquirer wires

Lipa cathedral to hold concert for pipe organ

THE SAN SEBASTIAN Cathedral in Lipa City will conduct its Advent Pipe Organ Concert on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.

The concert will feature Belgian organist Mr. Luc Ponet and the Koro Tomasino of the University of Sto. Tomas, the oldest university in Asia.

The event signals the start of the seasonal concerts of the cathedral's 34-year-old pipe organ.

This concert, according to a statement from the parish of San Sebastian, will be a three-fold event.

It will be a thanksgiving for donors who made the rehabilitation of the organ possible which was worth P3.3 million and for the San Sebastian Cathedral Pipe Organ Foundation.

It would also serve as a farewell party for Most Rev. Gaudencio Rosales, who was elected successor of retired Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

The concert would also mark the birthday of Msgr. Alfredo Madlangbayan, now parish priest of San Sebastian.

Militants decry continued military spying

DAVAO CITY—Militant groups here are crying foul over the Task Force Davao's "camera patrol" which reportedly takes pictures of people suspected to be engaged in terrorist activities in the city.

Jeppie Ramada, spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) for Southern Mindanao, said TF-Davao chief Col. Gaudencio Pangilinan's confirmation that his group was deploying a team to take pictures of suspected terrorists is putting the militants' lives in danger.

Pangilinan admitted on Sunday that the "camera patrol" team has been routinely taking pictures of suspected terrorists.

But Ramada said Pangilinan's statement "simply confirms the series of events that four militant offices were among those put under surveillance."

"Pangilinan is just like saying that we are the terrorists," he said.

Ramada said two plainclothes men on board a motorcycle stopped in front of the gates of Anak ng Bayan office at the corner of Aurora Street and Quezon Boulevard on Saturday noon.

He said an Anak ng Bayan staffer saw one of the motorcycle-riding men take pictures of the building.

Ramada said residents saw the same motorcycle-riding men prior to the incident and that they were also taking pictures of the militants' "shortcut" paths in going to the office.

On Nov. 5, two motorcycle-riding men went to the Bayan office in Juna Subdivision and interrogated some staff members there.

He said the men were armed with .45 caliber pistols.

On Nov. 4, Ramada said, a man went to the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) office on Anda Street and looked for the group's secretary general, Omar Bantayan. A KMU member told the man that Bantayan was not around.

Ramada said the man left word to the KMU member that Bantayan should be careful because he was in their "order of battle."

On Nov. 9, soldiers and policemen were reportedly seen surrounding the Bayan Muna office in Mati, Davao Oriental.

"We warn Pangilinan that if something happened to us, we will point our fingers at the TF-Davao's camera patrol team," he said.

In Laguna, a police official on Monday said they were tightly watching the communist rebels and several groups rumored to be part of a mounting move to grab power from President Macapagal-Arroyo, who rose to power in a bloodless takeover from ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Philippine National Police Deputy Director Enrique Galang told the INQUIRER that all government security agencies, especially the PNP, are not taking risks and waiting for anything related to coup plots to happen before they act.

He refused to divulge the names of the groups that are allegedly supporting the plan to oust Macapagal.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

5-centavo reduction in power rates hit

MAASIN CITY—A consumers' group in Southern Leyte has rejected as measly the 5-centavo reduction in electricity rates offered by the local electric cooperative here, considering that the government is set to condone the co-op's P300 million loan.

Olegario Caday, chair of the Utility Consumers' Organization of Southern Leyte who also represented the municipality of Sogod, said in a recent public hearing here that the 5 centavos was too small compared to P19 that the Southern Leyte Electric Cooperative (Soleco) had collected from its consumers to supposedly pay for its with the National Electrification Administration (NEA).

Soleco was earlier granted a temporary reduction of 5 centavos by the Energy Regulatory Commission. But the ERC has ordered Soleco to conduct a public hearing when the cooperative asked the ERC to make the reduction permanent. Soleco based the 5-centavo reduction on its annual amortization to NEA.

But Caday said Soleco's computation was not commensurate to the amortization consumers have been paying for its loan. Caday said that based on the computation given by the cooperative (annual amortization divided by number of kilowatt-hours sold annually), the reduction should come out at P0.51 per kWh at most.

"We expect that reduction should not be less than 20 centavos. Not five centavos," Caday said.

Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau

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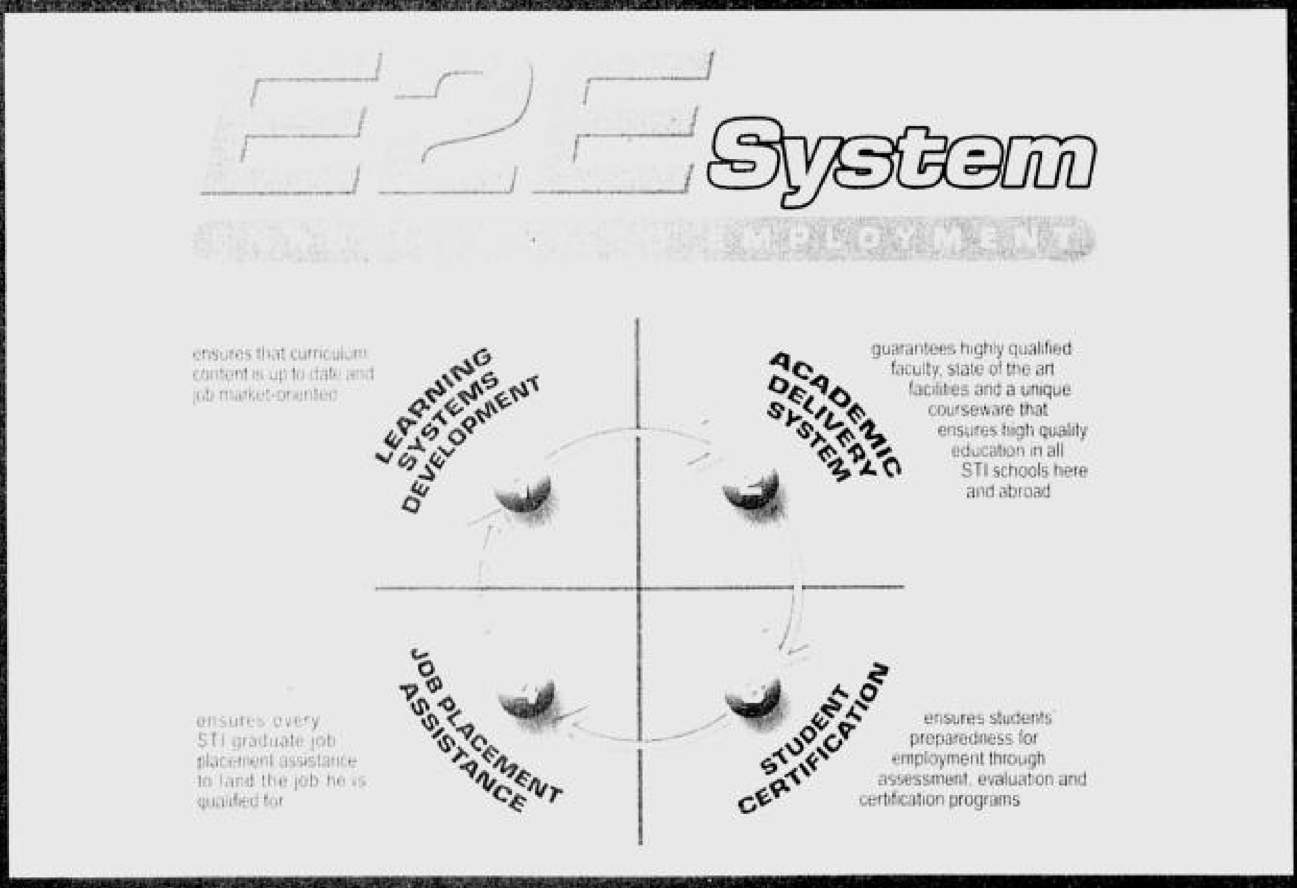
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3 victims of Pentagon kidnapping gang flee

By Grace Cantal-Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—After almost two months in captivity, the three security guards taken hostage by the Pentagon kidnap for ransom gang escaped from the hands of their captors in Liguasan Marsh in the borders of Maguindanao and North Cotabato provinces, the military reported yesterday.

Brig. Gen Agustin Demaala, commander of the Army's 301st Infantry Brigade, said Hernani Panes, Toto Galves and Rey Canlas, all security aides of Filipino-American Michael Escanlar, 25, escaped on Sunday evening.

The Pentagon took the three victims after a botched kidnap attempt against Escánlar on Sept. 19.

Escanlar, vacationing from the United States after hitting the US lottery jackpot, was then visiting his cock farm in Isulan town when at least 10 Pentagon gunmen on board a jeep attacked.

The escorts successfully shielded Escanlar from his attackers, but they were soon overpowered. The suspects fled using the three escorts as human shields.

During the course of their withdrawal, the gunmen killed at least two police officers.

Demaala said the victims escaped while their captors were praying inside a mosque.

He said from their captors' hideout in the Liguasan, the victims boarded a pump boat bound for SK Pendatun town in Maguindanao. They arrived in Isulan town around 6 a.m. Monday.

"They (victims) named (Tahir) Alonto and Mayangkang Saguile as responsible in their abduction. In fact one of them, Panes, had been scheduled for execution on Wednesday if they cannot pay ransom," Demaala said.

Demaala said the kidnappers had demanded P50 million for the freedom of the escorts but soon lowered it to P1.5 million.

The Pentagon gang, founded by former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader Faizal Marohombsar in the late 1980s, was implicated in various abductions, at least 50 of which were in southern and central Mindanao.

The group was also behind the abduction of five Chinese engineers in Carmen, North Cotabato and kidnapping of Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni in Zamboanga del Sur.

HOLIDAYS

RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Lanterns are starting to make their presence felt and brighten up the McArthur Highway in Davao City as this man produces the decoration items in time for Christmas.

NGO files graft rap vs gov over vehicles

A COALITION of Bulacan-based non-government organizations filed a graft case against Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz for what the coalition said were irregularities in the purchase of 53 motor vehicles.

The Bulakeño Para sa Mabuting Gobyerno at Kaunlaran (Bumago Ka), chaired by lawyer Demetrio Alday, filed the case before the Office of the Ombudsman.

In its complaint, the group said the provincial government bought the vehicles from the Freeway Motor Sales of Baliwag Corp., a dealership controlled by De la Cruz's family.

Securities and Exchange Commission records showed that the top three stockholders of Freeway were Jose Mendoza, the governor's father with 2,125 shares; provincial board member Joselito Mendoza, the governor's brother with 2,000 shares; and Violeta Mendoza, Joselito's wife with 2,000 shares.

The motor vehicles were purchased by the Bulacan provincial government in three months—from June to August this year.

OFW group raises fears on increase in rice prices

A GROUP of families of overseas Filipino workers yesterday expressed apprehension over a possible increase in rice prices as a result of the government's refusal to allow the entry of rice being imported by farmers' groups.

In a statement, the Kaibigan ng mga OFWs (KOFWs) urged Arthur Yap, National Food Authority administrator and NFA council head Angelito Sarmiento to heed requests for the entry of imported rice to stabilize prices.

This year, local rice production was just 5.3 million metric tons compared to last year's 13 million metric tons.

The decline in production was attributed to a recent dry spell and the reduction in the number of farms that are devoted to rice planting.

Noel Josue, head of the KOFWs, appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to step in to address a possible increase in rice prices because of the failure of cheaper, imported rice to enter the country.

He said families of OFWs started calling up their loved ones abroad to relay news on the possibility of an increase in rice prices.

"We fear for the worst when farmers could no longer provide us with locally produced rice and prices would go up," he said in his statement.

Farmers' groups earlier sought an extension of two programs which they said would ensure stable prices—the Farmers as Importers Program and Farmers as Distributors Program.

The farmers said it is only through these two programs that their economic conditions could be uplifted because they could not rely so much on farming as the country's agriculture sector is still antiquated and lacks technology to compete with foreign agriculture businesses.

They said the programs also help stabilize local rice prices, benefiting consumers.

They also asked that Raul Montemayor, the farmers' representatives in the NFA council, should not speak for farmers.

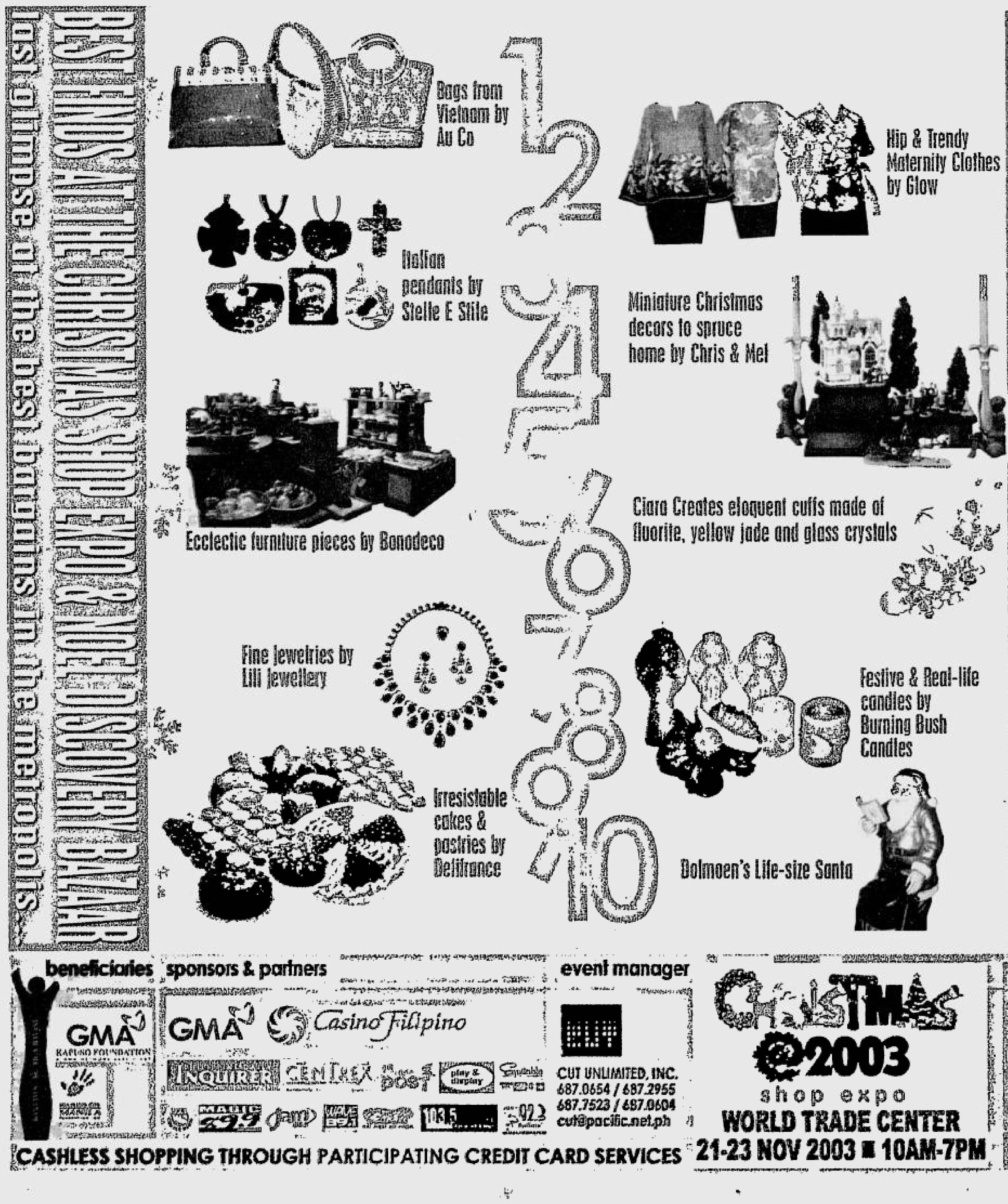
Most efforts to improve agriculture come from the private sector like in Southern Mindanao where a plan had been drafted to revive the region's coffee industry.

The Southern Mindanao Coffee Industry Council Inc. (SMCIC), a non-stock group with 40 member-producers, said it would plant a million coffee trees and devote at least 5,000 hectares for it.

Lucio Servaez, SMCIC vice president, said the plan came in the wake of the decreasing coffee production in the whole of Mindanao.

Until 1996, Mindanao used to supply about 37 percent of the country's total coffee output.

But due to the erratic peace and order condition that displaced coffee farmers, the intermittent drought in some parts of the island and the decision of coffee farmers to switch to other crops, Mindanao's output has decreased by about 60 percent. *With report from Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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- Trendy and Jean-ious: Denims like Earl Jeans, Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, Joie and Seven
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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

This Aussie restaurant is a maritime museum

By Tonette Orejas
Subic Bay Freeport

TWO cannons greet guests of a unique restaurant-cum-museum inside the Subic Bay Freeport. Three steps from the restaurant's lobby, an iron anchor welcomes visitors. Dangling from the ceiling just before the arched entrance is a tattered sail that had browned with age.

Tied to a mast through ropes, the sail, though folded and drooped, beckons anyone to enter and begin a culinary and maritime voyage.

Magellan's Point, named after Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan who opened the Philippines to the New World, is a maritime museum in a very authentic sense. It is built on the exact spot of the coaling station of the Spanish and American armies along the coast of Subic and filled with antique treasures recovered from the depths of the sea.

It is also the backdrop of Vasco's Pub and Restaurant.

Inseparably designed like ships were to sea, the place is rare in Subic and perhaps anywhere in the Philippines. That makes Australian diver-restaurateur Brian Homan a different kind of locator in this American base-turned-special economic zone.

To Homan, 53, the main come-on is still the sea. He said everything in his establishment was defined and enhanced by the Subic Bay, which he called "one of the beautiful places in the Philippines."

Homan came to Subic in 1993 or a year after the United States Navy left. Homan recalled bringing in a big replica of a Spanish galleon and another wooden ship to complement former Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Richard Gordon's tourism campaign in the freeport.

Before Homan plunged into that venture, he said his group was by that time the "leading dive operations in shipwreck explorations in the country," in partnership with the National Museum.

"Subic was off-limits to divers for many years. We thought to come to explore World War II wrecks," he said. He did so, accumulating more stuff that added to his Sulu finds.

By March 2000, he embarked on Magellan's Point.

Antiques

"I have antiques all over the world. My family is here. I wanted to bring the pieces back. I was looking for a place, not just a museum but a museum-restaurant so people can come in to relax in the Old World charm. I wanted to have all the pieces on display," he said.

The project, he said, did not take off until SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo prodded him to get started.

But Payumo was the first to be cynical about its location.

"I wanted the coaling station. It has been derelict for many years. The gates were closed," Homan said.

He said Payumo dissuaded him. "This is a place of junk. Do you really want this place?" Payumo had asked.

Homan's reply: "I'm going to do a nice Spanish-style, comfortable restaurant and a maritime museum here."

All the treasures from his 25 years of joint venture recoveries with the National Museum are here. He approximated the sea-ship setting before placing every precious jar, vase, plate, bowls, coins—whole or fractured—in his collection.

He also hung paintings that make guests feel they're under the sea.

Homan equates Portuguese explorer Vasco de Gama with good food, fine drinks and relaxing ambience, precisely why he named the bar after the explorer.

He gets 100 or so clients in his 24-hour, three-shift a day operation driven by a crew of 59. At least 90 percent of his guests are Filipinos. The rest are foreigners, including Federal Express pilots and Subic investors, Homan said.

The cuisine is, as he described it, "pretty general," which means Filipino food, baked meals in Australian style and a little bit of Spanish fare.

A PART of Homan's collection of priceless finds from the Philippine seas. TONETTE OREJAS

PIA Corvera is accompanied by a Missio official during the unveiling of a photo-mural of her in Preda Center, Olongapo City. ALLAN MACATUNO

German agency cites abuse victim

By Allan Macatuno
Olongapo City

PIA Corvera, 19, a youth advocate for children's rights who inspired a German Catholic agency to campaign against sex tourism and child abuse, was honored recently for her courage and bravery in pursuing justice against her foreign abuser.

Corvera was only 12 years old when an Irish Columban priest, Shay Cullen, rescued her from a German sex offender in Olongapo City seven years ago.

Members of Missio, the German Catholic bishops' agency for international mission work, brought with them a giant photo mural featuring Corvera's portrait superimposed over a hundred donated photographs of political and church leaders and members of the public.

Corvera unveiled the four-meter-wide mural during the celebration of International Children's Day recently at the People's Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance (Preda) Foundation compound in the city.

The mural, according to Missio officials, has toured Germany for four years as part of their campaign against sexual abuse.

Corvera said she wanted to help in the fight against child exploitation in the Philippines and in other countries.

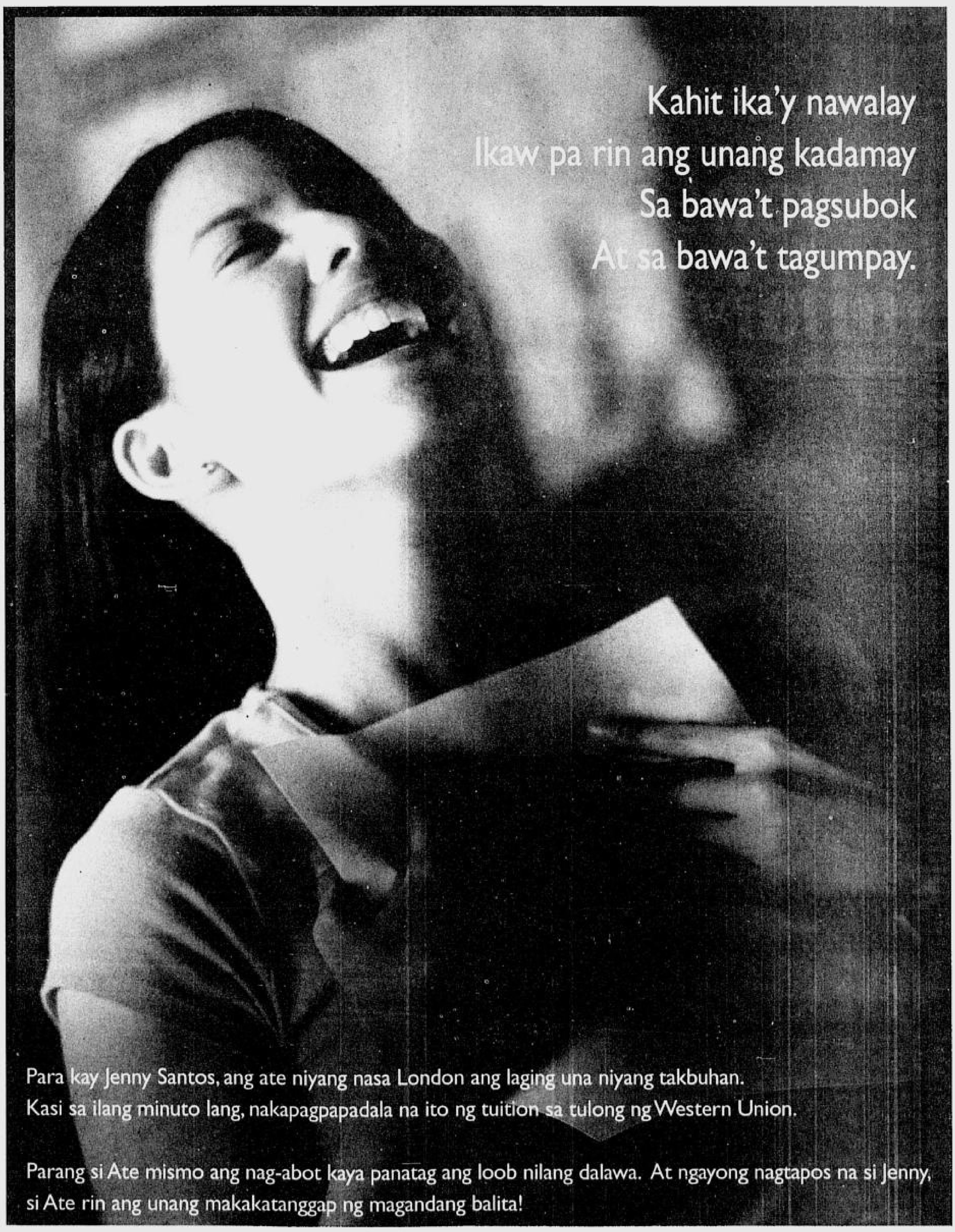
"*Isa ako sa mga tumututol sa pang-aabuso sa mga kabataan, hindi lamang dito sa ating bansa kundi maging sa ibang panig ng mundo* (I am one of those fighting against the abuse of children not only in our country but in other parts of the world)," she said.

Corvera acknowledged the help she received from Preda and Missio in finding justice for her case.

She also thanked Cullen for saving her from her foreign abuser and for giving her the courage to continue the fight against child exploitation.

She asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to put an end to the growing industry of prostitution in the country and save children from various forms of abuse.

Cullen, who founded the Preda in 1974, said they saw a heroine in Corvera. "One person has come to save the lives and images of all those young people who have struggled bravely against their abusers. And that's Pia," he said.



Para kay Jenny Santos, ang ate niyang nasa London ang laging una niyang takbuhan.
Kasi sa ilang minuto lang, nakapagpapadala na ito ng tuition sa tulong ng Western Union.

Parang si Ate mismo ang nag-abot kaya panatag ang loob nilang dalawa. At ngayong nagtapos na si Jenny, si Ate rin ang unang makakatanggap ng magandang balita!

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After impeachment storm, Lakas girds for fallout

From page A1

was not lost between Lakas and NPC. "We will build bridges of understanding."

The House session ended at 4:55 a.m. yesterday, with 115 voting to uphold De Venecia's decision to abide by the SC decision, and 77 voting against.

Tainted image

Another congressman said the House itself paid for the controversy with the coin of its reputation. LDP Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon of Muntinlupa said the House should now move to restore its tainted image.

"If ever there's a casualty in this whole affair, it's the image of the House. The institution's integrity has already been tarnished by accusations and insinuations as to the motives of its members in taking sides during the debates on the impeachment," said Biazon, the 76th signatory of the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., and one of the first to withdraw his signature.

He added: "The House lost in the propaganda war, with editorials, text and e-mail messages and street talk all putting congressmen in a bad light. Admittedly, the public's perception of congressmen has not been that favorable."

Burned bridges?

A Lakas anti-impeachment congressman was less confident.

Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (Surigao del Norte) expressed fears that the political fallout from the quashing of the Davide impeachment would be costly.

"It is inevitable that the coalition will burn bridges and the Sunshine Coalition will no longer be sunny," Barbers said. But he quickly added: "We can still mend fences."

People's victory

"The Davide impeachment issue should not be an issue to break the coalition," Barbers said.

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said the Lakas vote in the House to defeat the Davide impeachment was a "vote to preserve stability in the country."

"Let us leave that behind us now. We (Lakas and NPC) need each other in 2004," Nograles said.

'Kids were hurt'

But Angping, who was resolutely for impeachment, said that starting this week, the NPC would hold a series of meetings to define the party's position in the aftermath of the aborted Davide impeachment—amid talk that the Lakas leadership played a role in foiling the impeachment.

"*Nasaktan ang mga bata* (The kids were hurt)," Angping said, referring to the young NPC congressmen, christened the Brat Pack, who led the impeachment move.

"They felt they were left out. They were made to believe the agreement (struck with the Lakas leadership) that the impeachment will be transmitted to the Senate," Angping said.

Angping said that the Davide impeachment could serve as a lesson to either "strengthen the coalition or point to a need to go separate ways."

When sought for comment, however, the official NPC spokesperson, Rep. Francis Escudero (Sorsogon) steered clear of political talk.

"I am not talking about it," Escudero said, referring to the fate of the Lakas-NPC coalition.

"It has not been discussed at all in the NPC," he added.

He did tell dzMM radio that the NPC would "have to accept the decision because we don't want to have anarchy and chaos in the streets," Escudero said. "The Congress should now act to respond to this decision as an institution."

Victory has many fathers

While congressmen were counting the political cost of the impeachment crisis, many hailed the House decision to abide by the high court's ruling—proving that victory truly has many fathers.

"This is a historic win for the Filipino people," a beaming President Macapagal-Arroyo said in Malacañang, after receiving visiting Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev yesterday morning.

Moment of pride

"We are a nation victorious and united under democracy, justice and reconciliation. It is a moment of pride as the three branches of government come together in an expression of faith in each other and in a stable national future," the President said.

A triumphant De Venecia declared that the majority of congressmen effectively ended the constitutional crisis that gripped the nation in the last several weeks.

"The House majority voted to respect the decision of the Supreme Court. We have decisively defeated the moves of those who wanted to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide," he said.

Representatives Prospero Pichay of Surigao del Sur said the impeachment resolution was a victory of the people, not just of Davide, or De Venecia.

"It was a showcase of democratic processes because there was debate, argument about the pros and cons of the impeachment case at the end of the day. There was voting in an orderly manner," he said.

The President's spokesperson, Secretary Ignacio Bunye, said the House decision to accept the SC ruling was a "triumph of democracy."

Bunye said that "as far as this year is concerned," the impeachment controversy involving Davide is over.

Only in ICU

But House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla insisted that the complaint was not yet dead but only in the ICU (intensive care unit).

Padilla insisted on the floor that the 77 votes appealing the ruling of de Venecia still constituted one-third of the House members and went on to file a motion for the transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate.

But Gonzales, who was then the acting presiding officer, immediately turned down Padilla's second motion as there was already an earlier motion to adjourn.

Big tragedy

"The latter was carried because it was already 5 in the morning. My appeal is still pending and will therefore be the first business to be tackled on Wednesday," Padilla said.

Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said that bowing to the decision of the Supreme Court was a big tragedy and was a "dangerous precedent" that made the High Court completely untouchable.

"The House has castrated itself in exercising its constitutional mandate. We now have a Supreme Court which is immune from public accountability," Remulla said.

He said that by abiding with the Supreme Court, the House has completely surrendered its authority and mandate as a co-equal body.

Drilon described the landmark ruling, "a first in the history of the free world since no other high court had dared to rule on impeachment matters," as "well-grounded." *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Juliet Javellana, Christine Avendano; AFP, AP, Reuters*

Ping snubs . . .

From page A1

prospective presidential candidates of the united opposition, but none of them showed up.

Earlier, Angara said the pool of prospective candidates had shrunk from six to three—Poe, Lacson and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

On Monday, Sotto said they would announce the movie actor's plans for 2004 on or before Nov. 18.

But yesterday, Lacson was adamant that the number of presidential choices was "down to one," saying Angara and Sotto were only considering Poe, a close friend of ousted President Joseph Estrada, himself a former movie star who is facing plunder charges before the Sandiganbayan.

Not discreet

"They're very vocal about (their preference for Poe). *Di man lang sila naging discreet nang kaunti* (They were not even a bit discreet about it)," Lacson said. "They're saying *may* road show as part of the selection process, but every time they open their mouths, it's FPJ."

He recalled that Angara had earlier expressed support for businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco as the opposition's standard-bearer, but when the business tycoon's candidacy did not prosper, Angara went for Poe and then Sen. Noli de Castro.

Now, Lacson said, it's back to Poe.

No consultation

Asked why Angara and Sotto would not support his candidacy, Lacson quipped: "Maybe they don't like my face."

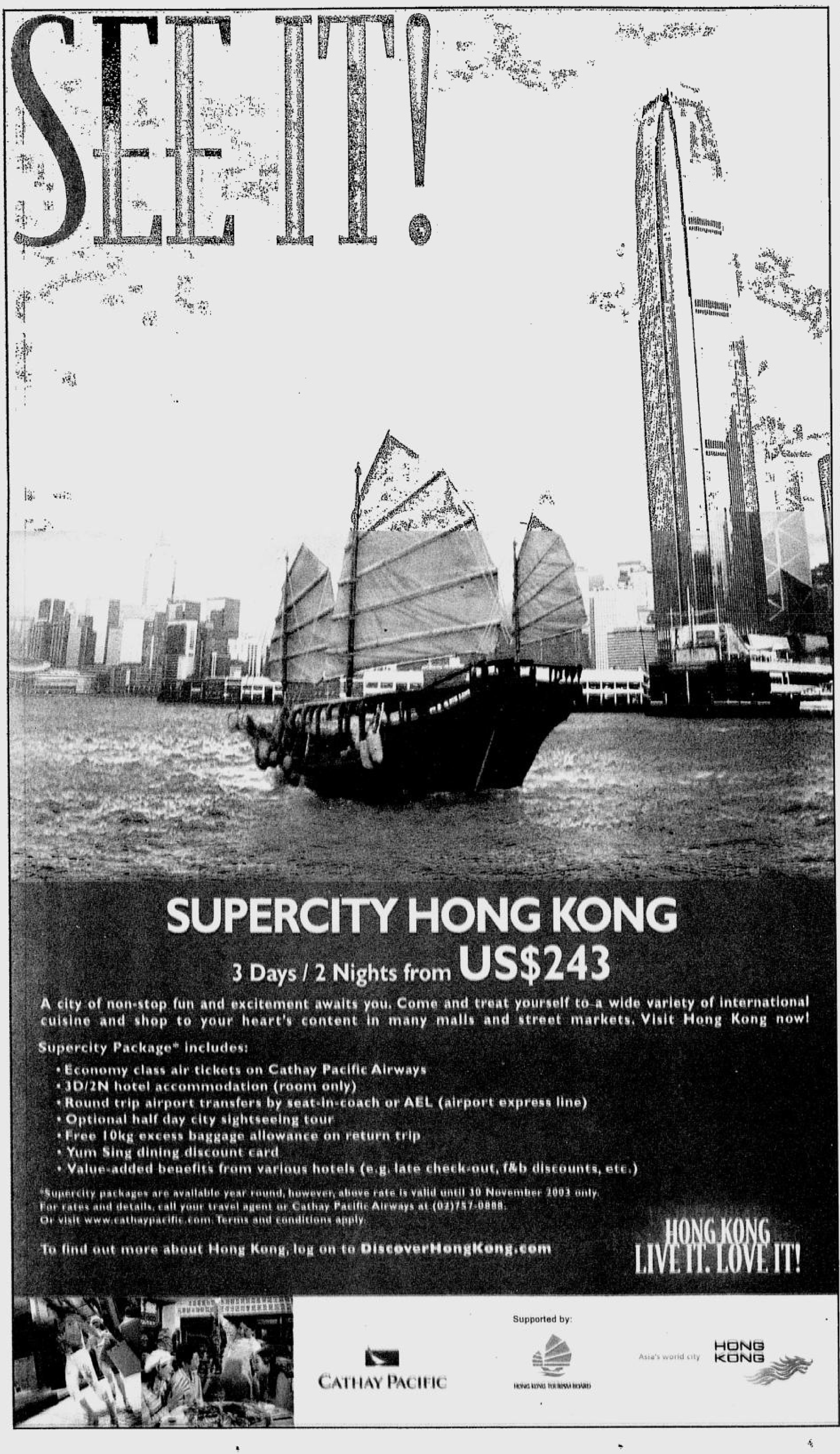
He also scoffed at Sotto's pronouncement last week that there was now a 95-percent chance that Poe would make himself available for the opposition in the presidential race.

"It's either he (Poe) runs or doesn't," Lacson said.

He reiterated his observation that until now the movie star has yet to announce his political plans.

Lacson also said Angara had yet to consult with members of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino on the selection process he had been seeking.

He said the ongoing road shows were being held without any consultations among party leaders and members.



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Anti-coup force reactivated by AFP in Metro

From page A1

insurgency is right here in Metro Manila. The Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, have a huge presence here," Abaya told reporters.

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, pooh-poohed the NCRC.

"The creation of that so-called special military command would surely elicit a warm applause from the New People's Army. At least, 6,000 soldiers would reduce the number of the presently deployed government soldiers in the countryside, which only conduct state-sponsored harassment and terrorism among the innocent civilians," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

Rosal said the command's primary focus was to contain the growing number of disgruntled soldiers. "The AFP is watching its own," he said.

The military hierarchy reactivated the NCRC on Nov. 1 as a result of the July 27 failed coup by the Magdalo Group, which demanded the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and other officials over alleged corruption.

More than 300 soldiers, mostly from elite special forces units, occupied the Oakwood luxury serviced apartments and a nearby shopping mall in Makati and rigged the area with bombs. They surrendered without bloodshed after a 19-hour standoff.

Libra deactivated

With the NCRC's activation, the anti-coup Task Force Libra will be deactivated. The NCRC was created in the 1980s because of the coup attempts against then President Corazon Aquino. It was deactivated in the early 1990s.

Apart from the terror threats, the NCRC would also assist the national police in maintaining law and order, and conduct disaster and relief operations in the metropolis, Lucero said.

"Basically, it's to protect the NCR from any threats, but we are looking at terrorism as the most significant threat," he said."Jemaah Islamiah (JI) is included in one of the threats that we are looking at ... and other threats from the New People's Army."

In December 2000, a series of bombs killed 22 people and injured more than 100 others in Manila. The government said JI, a Southeast Asian Muslim extremist group with links to al-Qaida, was responsible.

The intermittent bouts of instability and investors' jitters over the nearing election season, could dry up capital inflows into the country in the coming months, according to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Dampen investments

In a statement, Ms Macapagal said:"The election season combined with isolated incidents could dampen investments but we must not be discouraged."

"We are beset by isolated incidents that tend to aggravate perceptions of instability but we are also hurdling monumental challenges such as the impeachment issue," the President said.

The country was jarred by another destabilization attempt, the takeover of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport control tower on Saturday.

Security lapses

The President yesterday ordered transportation, airport and police officials to come up with a fact-finding report on security lapses that allowed former Air Transportation Office chief Panfilo Villaruel and his aide to seize the control tower.

Villaruel and Navy Lt. Ricardo Catchillar died when the Airport Security Group assaulted the control tower on Saturday before dawn.

"We must look into the security lapses that allowed this incident to happen and to immediately correct any deficiencies. The international airport is a prime security area and must be covered by fail-safe measures. We do not want such an unfortunate incident to happen again," the President said.

Senate probe

Three Senate committees are conducting an inquiry into the takeover. Senate President Franklin Drilon is holding Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza responsible for the takeover, which he described as a "serious breach of security."

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said Mendoza, whose resignation is being sought by Drilon, was invited to shed light on the controversy.

Also invited to today's hearing are National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, Manila International Airport Authority General Manager Edgardo Manda, Philippine National Police Director Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane, MIAA deputy general manager Angel Atutubo, PNP Airport Security Group chief Andres Caro II, ATO chief Nilo Jatico, dzBB news anchor Arnold Clavio and Manuel Salva, driver of Villaruel. ***With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño in Manila and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Only special priests for sin of abortion

From page A1

Act), HB 6416 (Gay Rights Act) and HB 6123 (Integrated Population and Development Act).

HB 4110 has been approved by the House committee on health and is pending before the committee on appropriations. HB 6416 and HB 6123 are now before the House plenary.

The CBCP and Pro-Life Philippines said the measures were anti-family bills.

Aniceto said abortion is a "reserved sin" punishable by excommunication and not all priests have the authority to impose penance for this sin.

Usually only bishops can hear confessions for abortion, but few people know of this Catholic church policy.

Ouster

Some bishops have chosen to endow their priests with the special faculty of absolving abortions. These priests are given a "quota" on the maximum number of abortions they can absolve. The quota is determined by the bishop.

When priests have consumed the quota, they have to renew their authority, but only after filing a report to the bishop on the abortion confessions they heard.

300,000 yearly

Pro-Life Philippines acknowledges that there are at least 300,000 abortions done in the Philippines every year and the numbers are increasing allegedly due to the rise of pornographic materials in the country.

"We have already adopted so many strategies against abortion, but (the numbers) keep increasing," said Sr. Mary Pilar Versoza, national coordinator of Pro-Life Philippines.

Aniceto urged Catholics to join Wyn Powers, founder of the Rosary for Life movement in the United States, in praying the rosary once a week for the protection of the Filipino family.

Woman sues ...

From page A1

was definitely not on the menu while eating at a branch of the McCormick and Schmick's Seafood Restaurant chain in Irvine, California, in February last year.

The Los Angeles Times reported that Sultan was tucking into her seafood soup when something rubbery stuck to her tooth.

"We said, 'Of course, you're chewing on a clam'," Paula Wild, one of Sultan's dining companions, told the newspaper.

But, to her horror, Sultan quickly realized that the surprisingly chewy ingredient was a contraceptive device. She spat it out and ran to a bathroom where she was violently ill.

"There was no question what it was," Wild said. "We're all adult women. Believe me, I've seen one in my lifetime."

Emotional distress

Sultan, Wild and the other two women who were with them—Cindy Hammond and Annamarie Sigala—are suing the restaurant for negligence and infliction of emotional distress.

The restaurant manager seized the condom, which the women claim was possibly used, and the chain, which boasts 42 posh restaurants across 19 states, sued American Roland Food Corp., which supplied the clams.

But a judge threw out the claim against the food supplier, clearing the way for the women's suit against the restaurant which is scheduled for trial on Jan. 12.

"We are going to argue that there is absolutely no evidence to suggest the restaurant was the source of the condom, or any employee of the restaurant," McCormick and Schmick's attorney Patrick Stark told The Times.

Practical joke?

"Either it came from (the four women) or it was thrown in as a practical joke by another patron at the restaurant."

Stark also said it was unlikely the item was used as it was still rolled up.

"I went through hell," Sultan said, adding that she had lost her appetite for sex and food, lost about 4.5 kg and suffered psychological trauma requiring a year of counseling and medication for depression and anxiety. *AP*

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Furniture yields big drug haul

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

INTERNATIONAL drug traffickers' have reportedly been smuggling illegal drugs into the country using furniture imported from China.

The operation was discovered after an estimated P1 billion worth of high-grade shabu, chemicals and equipment used in manufacturing illegal drugs, were discovered in a warehouse in Valenzuela City yesterday.

Four foreigners from Fujian, China, and a Filipino-Chinese, believed to be members of the biggest shabu-importing syndicate in the Philippines, were also arrested.

President Macapagal-Arroyo personally inspected the seized materials, which police officials found inside a warehouse at 6011 Benito Hao St., Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela City.

As of press time, more than 150 kilos of high-grade shabu and 15,000 kilos of ephedrine (a chemical used in manufacturing shabu) have been found.

The bags of shabu were found stuffed inside living room furniture sets, while the ephedrine was placed inside large cans labelled bleaching powder.

National police Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay said the value of seized drugs could go up since there were more pieces of furniture and cans to be ripped open.

According to him, the haul could exceed P3 billion after all the sala sets and cans have been inspected.

Aglipay told the INQUIRER that the arrested suspects were members of the biggest transnational drug syndicate in the country.

These were identified as Chinese nationals Go Siak Ping, 43, Tan Ty Siao, 47, Co Chai Ong, 35, Ong Chi Seng, 33 and Filipino-Chinese Robert Uy, 48.

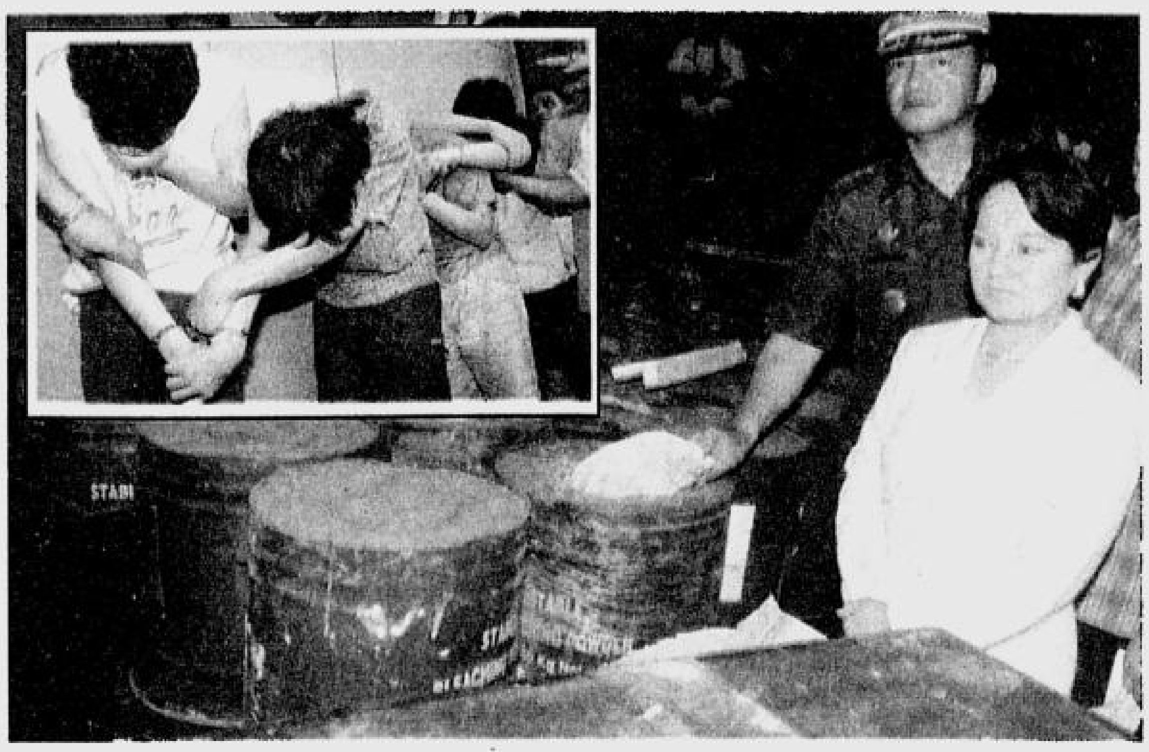
The syndicate is allegedly involved in smuggling shabu from China to the Visayas and Mindanao. The group also supplies chemicals and equipment to local shabu laboratories.

Before yesterday's discovery, the biggest drug haul was recorded also in Valenzuela City in December 2002, when more than P2.2 billion worth of shabu and chemicals were found in a warehouse in Lawang Bato.

The warehouse searched yesterday has been under surveillance for a month.

PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force team leader Nelson Yabut told the INQUIRER that in October, they arrested a member of the group.

More members were arrested in Binondo, Manila. These then told the police that they had bags of shabu in a warehouse in Valenzuela City waiting to be shipped to the provinces.



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo stares at drums of a chemical used for making shabu. Inset shows Chinese suspects arrested in a drug warehouse in Valenzuela City.
VAL HANDUMON

Pasig police playing favorites

By Luige del Puerto

TRAFFIC policemen in Pasig City have been playing favorites but no one is complaining.

This favoritism is between motorists using Shaw Boulevard Extension and San Miguel Avenue.

According to Sr. Insp. Fernando Lumbiana, Pasig City traffic chief, they have begun extending the "go time" for vehicles going to Mandaluyong and Manila.

However, it meant longer waiting time for motorists on San Miguel Avenue crossing Shaw Boulevard.

"It's a little deception that, it turns out, works rather well," Lumbiana said.

The scheme has also eased traffic on usually traffic-laden side streets and roads leading to Shaw Boulevard.

Villaruel a martyr to friends

By Margaux Ortiz

"HE WAS a hero and a martyr."

Thus exclaimed relatives and friends of slain Capt. Panfilo Villaruel, the former Air Transportation Office (ATO) chief who took over a control tower of the Manila International Airport allegedly out of disgust for the "massive corruption" in the government.

Led by his son Frederick, various civil society and militant groups yesterday held a prayer rally in front of the Ninoy Aquino statue in Makati City to pay tribute to Villaruel's "heroism."

"My father was very nationalistic and I believe he died fighting for his country, like heroes Jose Rizal and Ninoy Aquino," Frederick said in a eulogy during the prayer rally.

"My father might have gone against the law to make his voice heard, but he did not deserve to be slaughtered like what I heard over the radio (in his last interview with Arnold Clavio)," he stressed.

Frederick said he would make sure that his father did not die in vain.

He also appealed to Filipinos to do something about Villaruel's last message regarding corruption in the government.

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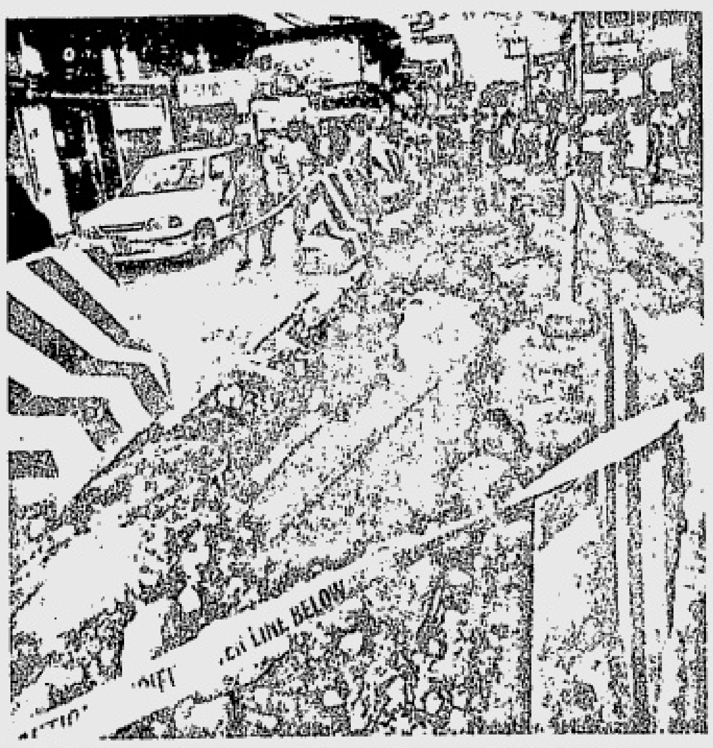
MWCI: Builder violated safety measures

Water officials mull over sanctions vs contractor for boy's death

By Tina Santos



IN THIS water-filled excavation on Chino Roces Avenue in Makati, eight-year-old Alvin Arpon took his last dip. In this file photo, it appears that there are not enough barriers to ward off children enticed by the water. BOY CABRIDO

RII BUILDERS Inc., the contractor that has dug up portions of Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City where eight-year-old Alvin Arpon drowned on Sunday, has clearly violated the health and safety requirements of the Manila Water Company Inc. (MWCI), the private water concessionaire.

Joel Lacsamana, MWCI corporate communications manager, said that they have conducted an investigation of the incident and learned that the strict safety measures stipulated in the contract have been violated by the construction firm.

But RII Builders would not take responsibility for the incident.

In a faxed statement to the INQUIRER, the contractors claimed that they have complied with the safety measures cited in the contract, such as the placing of concrete barricades and the closure of roads to traffic.

RII Builders officials said that although they are now seriously looking into the "unfortunate incident," what they have gathered so far has shown that the residents at the project site have been ignoring the warning signs and even admonitions of construction workers.

They said people, especially children, tend to bypass the barriers, enter the site and swim in the water-filled excavations.

RII Builders Inc. has secured the contract to lay 600-millimeter main water pipes in portions of Makati City.

Lacsamana stressed that the diggings should have been boarded up, and secured with barriers and signs to prevent anyone from falling in.

He said RII Builders did not place a secondary barricade or galvanized iron sheets to board up the site.

Lacsamana added that the excavation should not have been left open, saying the firm should have temporarily covered it up with steel plates or filled it up with asphalt or soil.

He also said RII Builders did not place adequate signs and sufficient light on the site to warn the public of the excavations.

Lacsamana also said that they are now assessing their contract with RII Builders to determine what sanctions to impose.

"Perhaps we would impose a demerit since they violated certain provisions in our contract, that's very clear in the investigation," Lacsamana said.

Melanie Siena-Lapore, RII Builders' corporate communications manager, said that they are "doing everything" they can "to help ease the pain of the boy's family."

Alvin Arpon drowned on Sunday when he, along with four of his friends, took a dip in a murky water hole between Kalayaan and Barasoain Streets in Barangay Olympia, Makati.

Lapore said they are now taking extra measures to prevent a repeat of the incident.

WPD chief set to reshuffle station heads

By Leila Salaverria

A RESHUFFLE is looming at the Western Police District.

WPD Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong has already formed a panel that would evaluate the performance of the 11 station commanders and the unit and division chiefs of the district.

This was according to WPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod, who identified the three members of the panel as deputy director for administration Senior Supt. Juanito de Guzman, chief of staff Senior Supt. Conrado Martinez and deputy director for operations Senior Supt. Rafael Corpuz.

The panel would be headed by Bulaong himself.

Agunod also said yesterday that the reshuffle would take place in the first quarter of next year, most probably in January.

The reshuffle is expected to weed out non performers or reassign those not suited to their present positions, the spokesperson said. Only those who have showed exemplary performance would be retained.

Last month, the WPD began the evaluation of the officers' performance, with the panel conducting a tally of what the officials under evaluation have accomplished. Agunod said that among the criteria being used to judge the suitability of the officials in their present posts is crime prevention and crime solution in their areas of responsibility.

After buses, MMDA turns to organizing routes for jeepneys

By Margaux Ortiz

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has yet to fully implement its Organized Bus Route (OBR) but it is already planning a similar scheme for jeepneys.

The MMDA has already dispatched a team to identify potential "official" jeepney terminals in the metropolis.

In a press conference on Monday, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said they were looking at limiting the number of jeepneys on the streets so that there would be just enough of these on the road.

"Like what we are trying to achieve with the OBR, we want just enough jeepneys at a given time to eliminate traffic and congestion," Fernando said.

The MMDA chair, however, said they were still studying the kind of dispatch scheme to use for jeepneys.

Fernando added that they needed to perfect the OBR first before they could do any jeepney dispatch systems.

"We need a model that works so that jeepney drivers and operators would cooperate," he said.

According to the chair, if the OBR proves effective in three months, they will immediately start on the jeepney project.

METROBRIEFS

She's had enough

JOCELYN Rivera, 23, claimed she has had enough of her husband's beating and had him locked up yesterday in Marikina City. She called the police the other night after her husband, Fernando Rivera, 25, mauled her for simply returning a smile to someone in their neighborhood. Police said Jocelyn's lips had burst and she also suffered bruises all over her body. Jocelyn claimed her husband would beat her every time he became jealous of anyone. Behind bars, Rivera admitted hitting his wife. But he claimed he just hit her back when she started hitting him. *Luige del Puerto*

Gunned down

THREE men gunned down a suspected Muslim police informer Monday night in Quezon City. Killed on the spot due to three bullet wounds was Margani Hasan, who lived in the Salam Mosque Compound in Barangay Culiat. Police said witnesses saw Hasan being chased by the suspects at 7:45 p.m. near his house. Three shots rang out and witnesses just saw Hasan sprawled on the pavement. Authorities were still investigating the motive behind the killing. *Tina Santos*

Sta. Ana fire

ONE PERSON was injured while P100,000 in property was damaged after an hour-long fire hit a two-story building in Manila on Monday. Quoting residents in the area, arson investigators yesterday said the property was allegedly owned by former actress Aurora Sevilla. Investigation showed that the blaze began 4:34 p.m. at the building on the corner of Garido Street and Pasig Line in Sta. Ana, Manila. Renato Reyes, 46, suffered minor burns from the blaze. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Stinking hall

TO PREVENT a possible outbreak of respiratory diseases among cops who were exposed to stench emanating from a septic tank, the Marikina City health office is set to conduct a medical checkup at the police station this week. Dr. Alberto Herrera, the city's chief health officer, said he would send doctors to check on the cops, especially those whose offices lay near the leaking septic tank. "We don't want our cops to get sick," Herrera said. Vice Mayor Marion Andres said he would direct the City Engineer's Office and the Office of the City Administrator to fix the leak. *Luige del Puerto*

San Mateo fire

A 30-MINUTE fire destroyed an estimated P1.5 million worth of property on Monday night in San Mateo, Rizal, authorities reported. The fire destroyed five houses on Gen. Luna Street in Barangay Ampid. No one was reported injured in the fire which started around 8 p.m. *Luige del Puerto*

Thank You
COME AGAIN

COMPUTER SHOPS RAIDED
A National Bureau of Investigation staff member inspects the 130 personal computers NBI agents seized from five shops in Ermita, Manila, which they raided last week. The computers were loaded with pirated computer games, according to Ramil Quinto, leader of the raiding team. The raids came after Asian Media Development Group, exclusive distributor of the branded games, filed a complaint with the NBI on the use of pirated games in several game shops in Manila.

Remembering Dacer, Corbito

IN COMMEMORATION of the third year of the disappearance of PR specialist Bubby Dacer and Awel Corbito, the bereaved families would like to invite all their friends and relatives to a Holy Mass on Nov. 23, Sunday, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Our Holy Rosary Church in Sun Valley Subdivision Parañaque, Metro Manila.

At 11 a.m., there will be a press conference at the residence of Bubby Dacer at 4500 State Ave, Sun Valley Subd.

On Monday, Nov 24, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rembrandt Hotel in Tomas Morato, Quezon City, the Center for Legislative Development, in collaboration with Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance, will hold a Forum on the Anti-Involuntary Disappearance Bill with main sponsor, Rep. Loretta Rosales, as speaker.

Please confirm your attendance with Jennifer Mapa or Ellen Cordova-Guanzon at 687-2082 and 687-2083.

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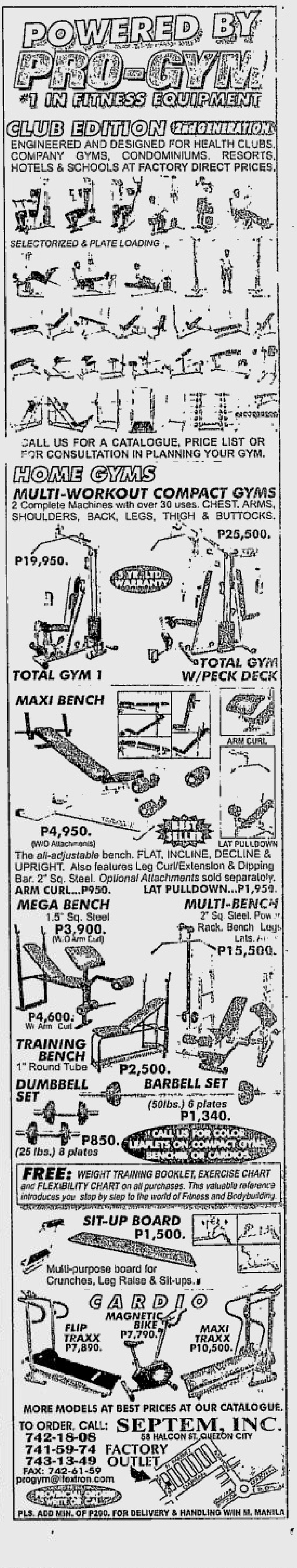
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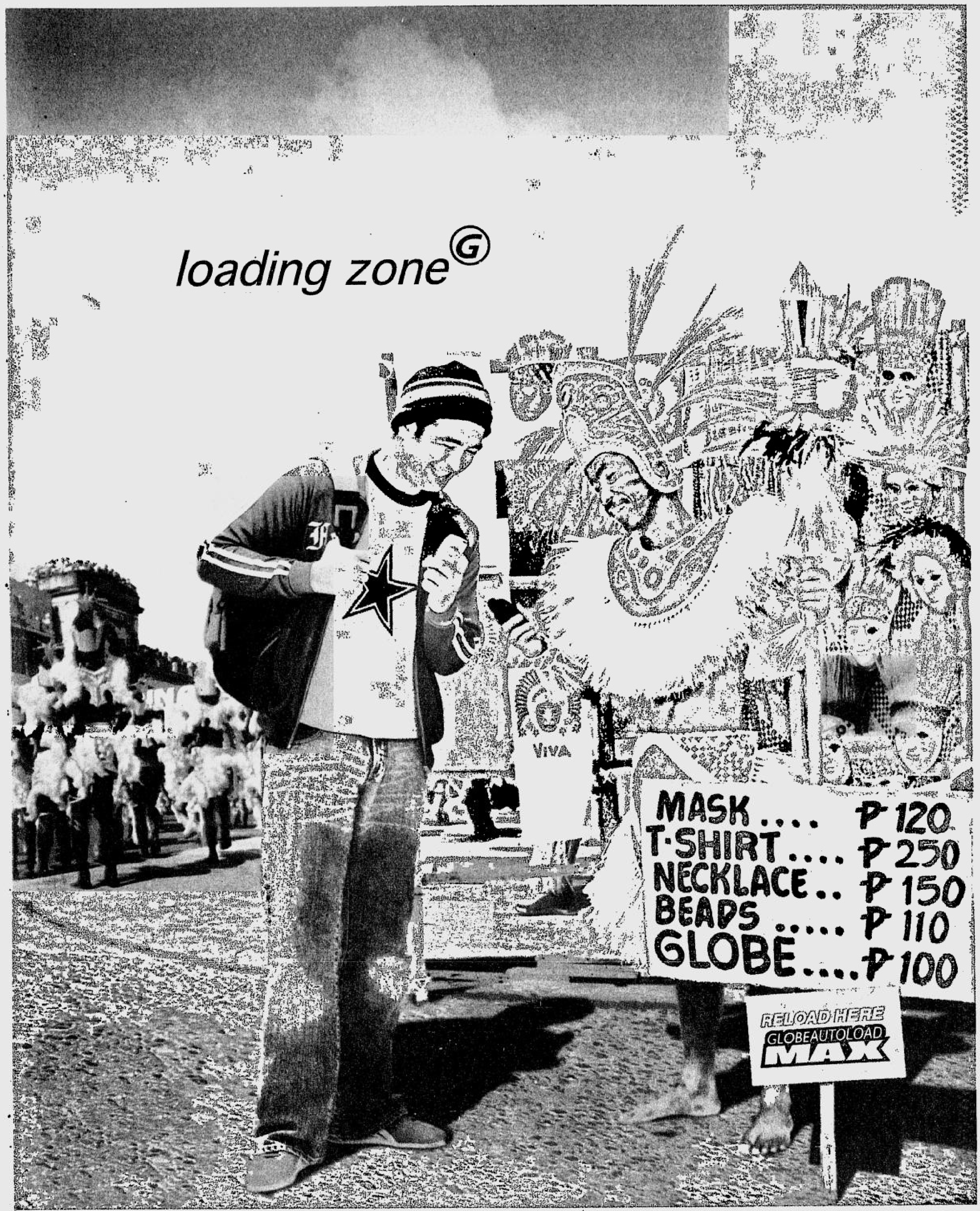
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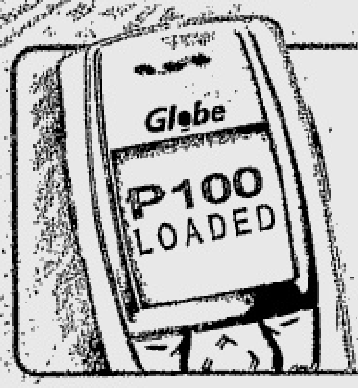
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BASKETBALL: Heat vs Rockets; 9:30 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports - East meets West as Miami visits Houston.

NBA Greatest Games - Minnesota vs Los Angeles; Game 5, 2003 Western First Round; 12 noon; Solar Sports - The Timberwolves get the biggest win in franchise history with their best player watching from the bench. With Kevin Garnett on the sideline after fouling out early in overtime, Minnesota makes seven free throws in the final 24.3 seconds to defeat Los Angeles, 114-110, and take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Compiled by L. Manguiat

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

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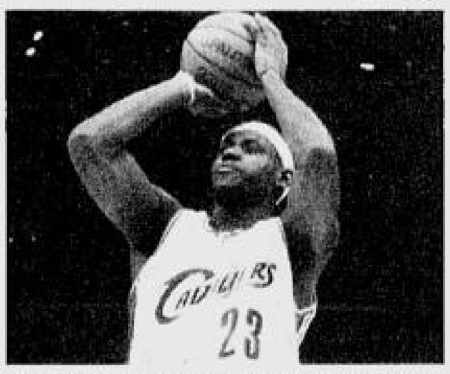
WHAT'S INSIDE

Fans seek divine guidance for Pacquiao /A26



James lifts Cavs past Knicks; Lakers lose /A28

Clijsters retains WTA crown /A29

PBL PLATINUM CUP

Montaña, Welcoat ahead

By Marc Anthony Reyes

GAMES TOMORROW (UST Gym)
1:45 p.m.—Blu Star vs Fash Liquid
3:45 p.m. — ICTSI-La Salle vs Sunkist UST

GARY David drove through heavy traffic for a towering lay-up in the final 27 seconds to lift Montaña Pawnshop to a thrilling 70-69 victory over debuting Viva Mineral Water-FEU yesterday in the PBL Platinum Cup at the San Beda gym.

It was the Jewelers' second straight victory in as many games after defeating Fash Liquid Detergent (70-67) in Saturday's opener.

James Yap scored 15 points, grabbed four rebounds and issued three assists to power Welcoat over Blu Star, 71-63, in the second game.

Welcoat tied Montaña at 2-0, while inflicting Blu Star its first loss in two games.

David, the 6-foot-2 guard who is a member of the national team, infused electricity on the league's former whipping boys by banging in five of his 17 points in the final two minutes.

Viva last led at 69-68 after Warren Ybanez hit a three-pointer from the deep corner with just 38 seconds to go.

But even before the uproar over Ybanez's triple could subside, David caught everybody by surprise by scoring the game-winning basket.

The Water Force had a chance to turn the game around but Dennis Miranda and Arwind Santos missed their respective attempts.

It was a pity for Viva which witnessed Santos, a vital cog in the UAAP champion Far Eastern rotation, engaged David in a virtual shootout in the final six minutes.

The 6-foot-4 Santos also regaled the crowd with his spectacular moves hardly seen from a rookie in the league.

The FEU star wound up with 12 points, eight rebounds and an assist, while David finished with 17 points and eight rebounds.

Scores:

MONTAÑA 70—David 17, Magpayo 15, Salvador 6, Coronel 6, Magsumbol 5, Sayon 4, Guerrero 4, Basco 4, Saniel 3, Bauschmayer 2, Mendoza 2, Manigo 2, Alfad 0.

VIVA 69—Santos 12, Ybanez 11, Isip 8, Co 7, Miranda 7, Jones 5, Margate 4, Misolas 4, Sinco 4, Napa 4, Catli 3, Razon 0, Rizada 0.

Quarters: 11-12, 26-36, 49-51, 70-69.

WELCOAT 71—Yap 15, Tangkay 14, Solto 10, Capus 8, Artadi 7, Reyes 6, Omolon 4, Wilson 2, Pingris 1, Kalaw 0.

BLU 63—Gatumbato 22, Pascual 10, Mesina 9, Lopez 8, David 4, Almeda 4, Canaleta 2, Cervantes 2, Juinio 2, Prior 0, Basilides 0.

Quarters: 13-6, 36-23, 59-46, 71-63.

JOHN Prior of Blu (right) defends against Paul Artadi of Welcoat.

RUDY ESPERAS.

Uniform woes hound RP SEAG contingent

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CONTROVERSY continues to come up just three weeks before the national athletes embark on their Vietnam Southeast Asian Games campaign.

This time it's about the parade uniforms.

Athletes and officials have complained of the last-minute decision to replace the contractor which will provide *barong tagalog* and pants and *baro't saya* for the 658-man RP contingent.

In fact, the final day of measurement was only set for today, 23 days before competition starts.

But the athletes themselves are doubtful whether the makers can make it on time considering parade uniforms traditionally get delayed even with months of lead time.

The first contractor, Rustan's, already took the measurements of the delegation members two months ago until it was replaced recently by 8th Avenue Fashion, which is now rushing the work.

Rustan's Vic Valbuena, who is also

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Fans seek divine guidance for Pacquiao

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By Percy D. Della
Correspondent

SACRAMENTO—A motley group of Filipinos led by a Catholic priest extends the welcome mat for Filipino boxing champion Manny Pacquiao Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) when he holds his public workout in San Antonio, Texas.

Pacquiao, the reigning IBF super bantamweight was due to arrive today in Texas from Los Angeles after days of hard training at the Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood. He faces Marco Antonio Barrera—considered the best featherweight on the planet today—in a 12-round non-title bout at San Antonio's Alamodome Saturday night (Sunday afternoon, Philippine time).

Barring some last minute changes, Pacquiao's press and public preview will be held at the Zarzamora Street Gym in west SanAntonio—where he will train some more up to fight time.

"I hope we are allowed inside to give Manny a much needed emotional lift," the Rev. Marcel Ugaddan said in a long-distance phone conversation with the INQUIRER.

The Isabela-born prelate is assistant parish priest of San Antonio's mostly Filipino Santo Niño Catholic Church. "We will also pray that our hero gets guidance from above on fight night."

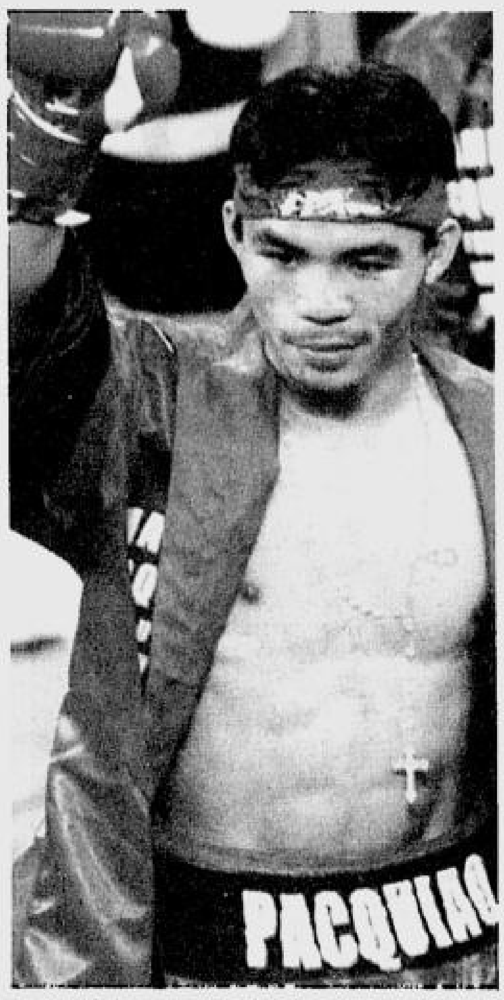
The fight is available locally on Home Box Office—the cable TV giant televising the fight. But many of the good reverend's parishioners are planning to see the match live.

Tickets for the "People's Championship" between Barrera of Mexico City and Pacquiao are going for $25 and $35 on the low end—$15 lower than the price of admission to a forthcoming concert by Filipino diva Kuh Ledesma in nearby Austin.

"It's the fight you definitely want to see in person," wrote John Wisler of the San Antonio Express-News. He described Pacquiao, dubbed Pac Man "a boxer with a crowd-pleasing style that gobbles up opponents. He has 29 knockouts in 40 pro bouts."

In his most recent bout, on July 26, Pacquiao stopped Emmanuel Lucero, Barrera's compatriot in three rounds.

"But the super bantamweight champion decided to move up to 126 pounds to challenge Barrera because of opportunity," according to Wisler. The writer said the Filipino star is getting a reported $350,000—almost 50 percent more than the purse team Pacquiao has publicly revealed.


PACQUIAO: Crowd-pleasing style GETTY IMAGES

An upset over Barrera, the prohibitive favorite—would catapult Pacquiao into superstardom, with bigger paydays on the horizon, according to Wisler who picks the Mexican to win by TKO in the middle or late rounds.

Barrera, among the stable of elite fighters maintained by HBO will enter the ring Saturday despite a metal plate in his head. He had been given the nod to box by neurologists.

The Express-News quoted Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission as saying that "Barrera passed the tests no doctor could ever give—surviving 24 tough rounds with Erik Morales and 12 with Prince Naseem Hamed."

Barrera, 27, nicknamed the "Baby Face Assassin," defeated Hamed on April 7,2001 in a battle of the best pound for pound boxers. He beat Morales on June 22, 2002 in one of the most exciting fights in recent memory.

Barrera's HBO stablemate, super welterweight champion Oscar de la Hoya, the biggest draw in pay-per-view boxing is promoting the fight under his Golden Boy Promotions.

Torre shares lead; other RP bets gain ground in Belgium

FILIPINO GM Eugene Torre and top seed Russian Super GM Vladimir Epishin drew their seventh round game Monday night and shared the lead in the 15th de Open van Leuven chess championship in Leuven, Belgium.

Both Torre, Asia's first Grandmaster, and Epishin, second placer in last year's edition of the tournament, have six points.

Torre, who just turned 52, defeated Fide Master Stephen Berry in the sixth round to catch up with Epishin, who halved the point with Ukrainian GM Mihail Golubev.

Two other Filipinos, GM Rogelio Antonio and NM Oliver Barbosa, were at 5.5 points in the company of Ukrainian GM Mihail Golubev, Georgian GM Giorgi Bagaturov and Belgian Nicola Grecuccio.

The 41-year-old Antonio, a native of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, also drew his seventh round match with Ukrainian GM Alexander Goloschapov after beating Belgian Jeroen Claesen in the sixth.

Barbosa, the country's 2003 World Youth under 18 representative, beat Steven Stinis and Eddy Van Espen in round 6 and 7, respectively.

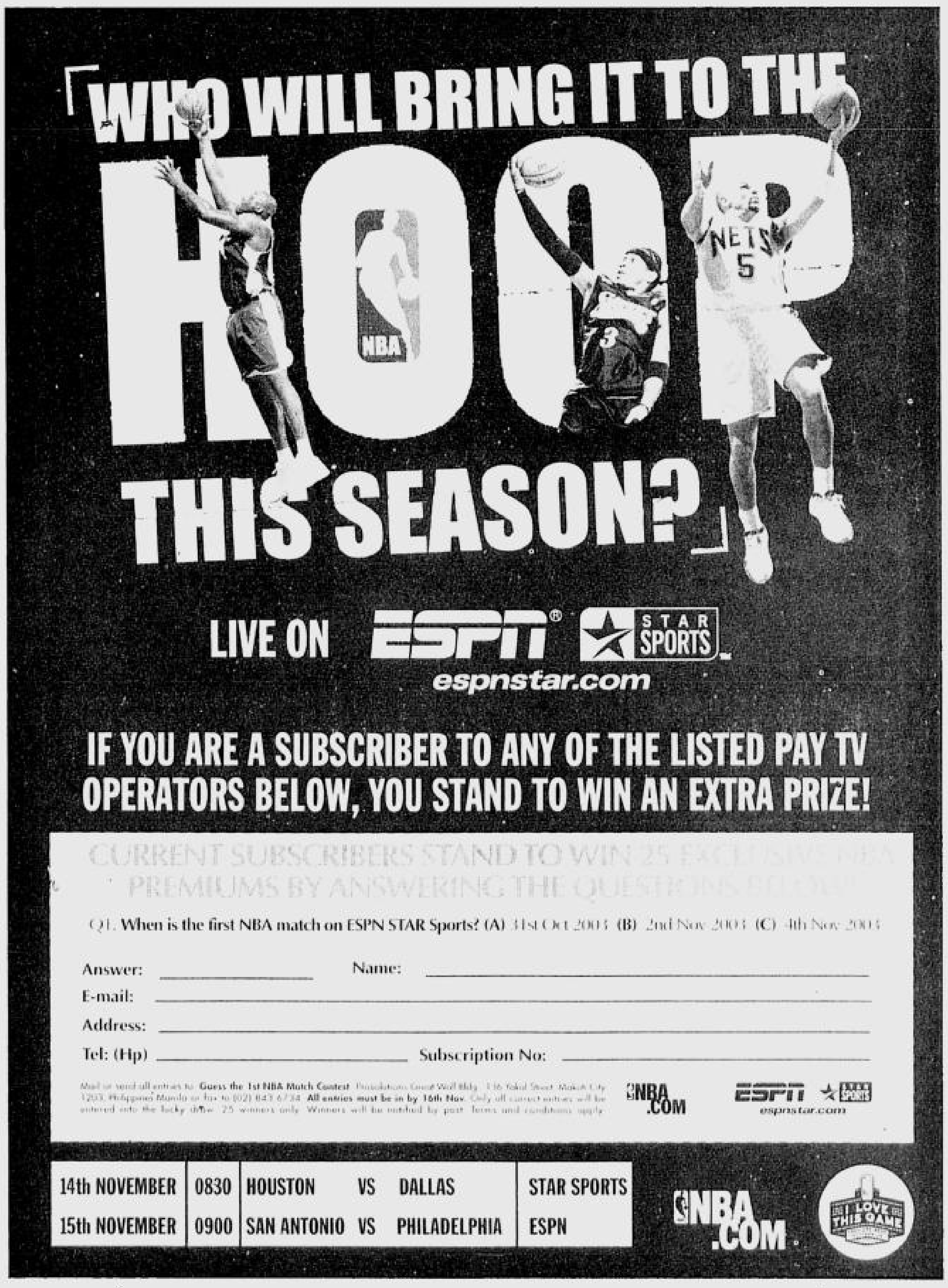
GM Bong Villamayor also bounced back in contention by whipping Benjamin Tonoli and David Houdart, respectively.

Villamayor, who hails from Mauban, Quezon, improved to 5.0 points and a share of 8th to 16th places.

Lawyer Samuel Estimo, secretary general of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, said he is very happy with the performance of the four Filipino bets.

"I hope they can win the title," said Estimo, who thanked the First Gentleman Foundation and the Philippine Sports Commission for supporting the Filipinos' campaign and the NCFP, headed by lawyer Matias Defensor, in general.

In the eight and penultimate round, Barbosa faces Epishin; Torre meets Bagaturov; Antonio battles Golubev and Villamayor tackles FIDE Master Serge Vanderwaeren. *NM Marlon Bernardino*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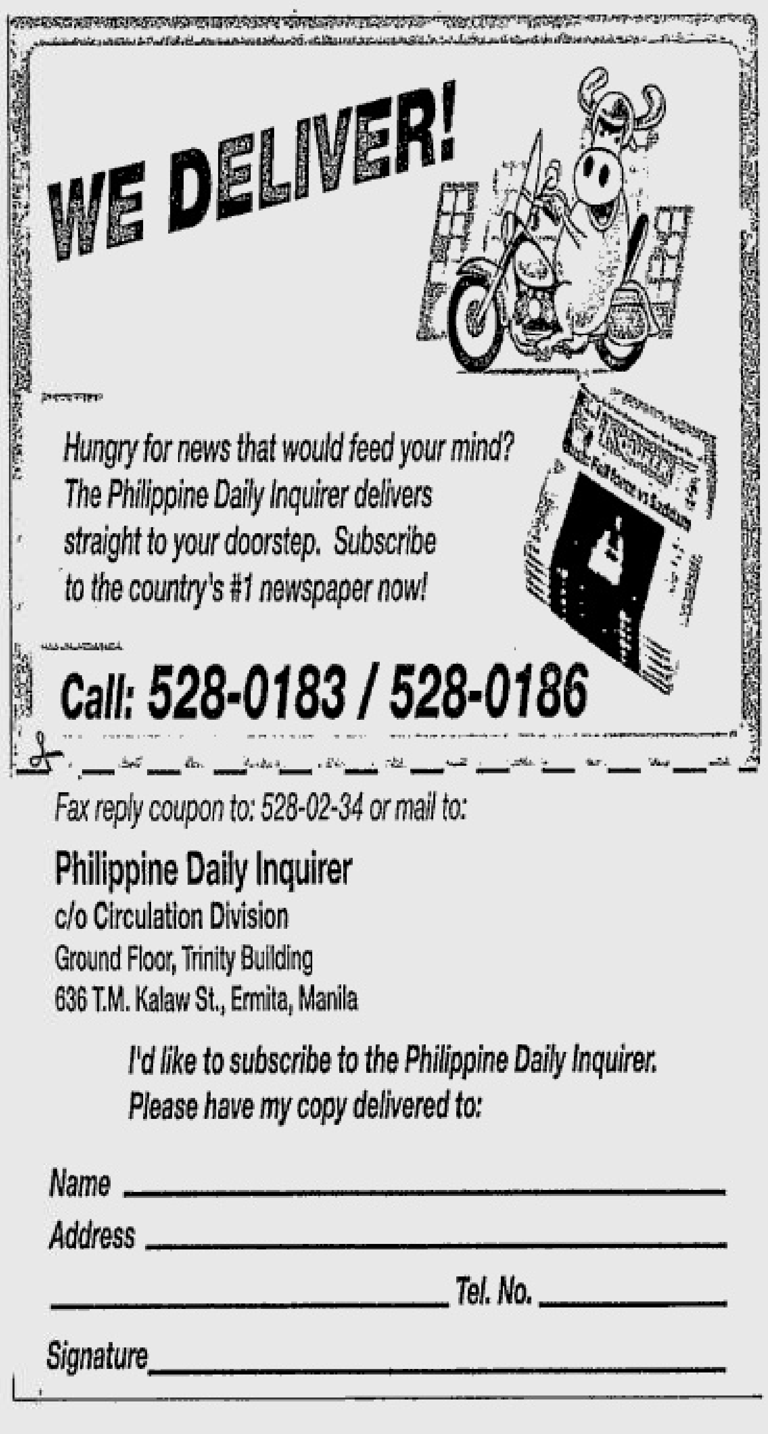
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Prince Gabi: Does the crown fit the clown?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

GOV. Manny Piñol of North Cotabato, main man behind the world boxing championship promotion in Kidapawan on Sunday, was very displeased.

His fighter, Diosdado Gabi, did win the coveted international flyweight boxing title.

But to Piñol's dismay, the new Crown Prince of Filipino flyweights spoiled his coronation when he turned court jester and resorted to silly clowning in the final three rounds of the championship.

Piñol said he planned to send Diosdado Gabi, who earlier dethroned Randy Mangubat as WBC International flyweight king, to train at the famous Kronk Gym in the United States.

Now Piñol was in a dilemma. He said he did not want American boxing teachers to accuse him of having sent over the Clown Prince of Philippine boxing instead.

But the Japanese manager of the dethroned champ assured Piñol by meekly conceding defeat.

"He's really very good, you've got a world champion there," Yuki Murayama told Piñol after the young provincial exec had awarded the championship belt to Gabi.

Murayama, a robust, cool-eyed former photographer, said Mangubat was able to perform a lot better when he took on Thai world flyweight champion Pongsaklek Wongjongkam earlier this year.

Against Gabi, the fire-breathing Mangubat lost his sting. He was frustrated by the shifty, confusing style of his younger opponent who happens to be a great fan of Prince Naseem Hamed.

***

Well, Piñol lost money in the promotion.

He doesn't regret this. Still, he continued to wonder how to explain the useless silly portion of the 12-round bout, won by Gabi via a technical decision, to the Kronk's Emmanuel Stewart, renowned trainer of world heavyweight king Lennox Lewis.

Gabi, sharp, elusive, tricky, dominated the fight.

He did get pressed in the early rounds, and had a full taste of Mangubat's feared body shots in the third.

But except for an obvious slip, following what looked like an insignificant shoulder shove that was ruled a knockdown, Gabi was in control.

The son of a poor fisherman from Davao was a delight to watch.

It's a pity that fans, including those who watched the telecast of the championship over NBN-4 on Monday, witnessed the gifted, slippery ring wonder only for the first time.

Anyway, it would be explained that, despite his talent and skills, Gabi had remained unknown mainly to Manila fight followers because he had not campaigned often enough out of Mindanao.

Before the Mangubat outing, one highlight of his career was being voted boxer of the tournament in the 1999 Arafura Games in Darwin, Australia.

Later, as a pro, Gabi nearly stole the World Boxing Federation super flyweight crown from Thai Samson Dutchboy Gym in Udonthani, Thailand on what Filipino handlers swore was a controversial decision.

***

Anyway, in that grand shot at stardom Sunday, the title bout was stopped midway in the 12th and final round after Gabi suffered a gaping eyebrow wound on a Mangubat headbutt.

Gabi, way ahead in the official scorecards, was readily declared winner by technical decision.

Mangubat, 27, was paid P220, 000 ($4,000) to stake his crown.

Gabi, 24, got P50,000.

Maybe it was the biggest paycheck in Gabi's career.

For those not aware of it yet, the International title is for fighters ranked 11th and down by Mexico-based World Boxing Council.

But, by virtue of his ascendancy as WBC International flyweight champion, Gabi could be tapped anytime by the world body to challenge for the crown proper.

No stranger to great odds, Gabi said he would be more than willing to mix it up with the reigning WBC flyweight title, Pongsaklek Wongjongkam, who stopped and dethroned Cebu's Malcolm Tuñacao in Pichit, Thailand nearly two years ago.

***

Boxing officials, headed by Games and Amusements Board boxing division chief Noli Flores, vowed to back up a Gabi world title challenge anytime.

Flores was however quick to explain that Gabi also has to improve his variety of punches, and develop killer combinations.

That's exactly the reason Gov. Piñol has planned to send Gabi to train in the United States.

Anyway, the governor was finally appeased when he learned the morning after that Gabi had never intended to turn the final rounds of his fight against Mangubat into a clowning exhibition.

Gabi confessed that his chief handler, no stranger to the governor, had ordered him to showboat in order to further confuse the already frustrated Mangubat.

Last head of Gov. Piñol was still finding a way to explain this twist to Gabi's would-be trainers at the Kronk Gym in Detroit.

A former newsman, Piñol was in no mood to edit out and hide the truth, the crucial clowning portion of the fight.

Piñol also doesn't want Gabi to turn into Prince Naseem Hamed of the Philippines.

KRONK GYM

WBC champ Gabi to train in US

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

KIDAPAWAN City—Newly crowned World Boxing Council International flyweight champion Prince Gabi steps closer to fulfilling his big time dreams when he hooks up with legendary trainer Emmanuel Steward at the latter's Kronk Gym in Detroit, Michigan early next year.

Gabi had annexed the WBC International title last Sunday with a technical decision win over deposed champ Randy Mangubat in their 12-round duel top-billing the "Engkwentro" card at the North Cotabato Provincial Gymnasium.

"Yes, that's our plan. We will definitely bring him to the US where he will get the best training methods available," said Socrates Piñol, Gabi's manager.

"Negotiations between our camp and Emmanuel Steward are under way," agreed North Cotabato Governor Manny Piñol, who was at ringside when Gabi took the title away from Mangubat via scores of 116-110, 116-111, 114-112.

Meanwhile, Games and Amusements Board boxing division chief Emmanuel Flores said that he will communicate with WBC International president Mauro Betti to give Gabi a slot in the top 15 rankings of the WBC. Flores, who supervised last Sunday's fight, is a member of the WBC Board of Governors.

"Gabi showed his class in the fight. Although he didn't show much of his power in outboxing Mangubat, he made a statement that he can be a strong contender for the regular world crown," Flores said.

The reigning WBC champ is Thai Pongsaklek Wongjongkam, who is slated to defend his title against Australian-based Lebanese Hussein Hussein this Friday in Bangkok's Lumpinee Stadium.

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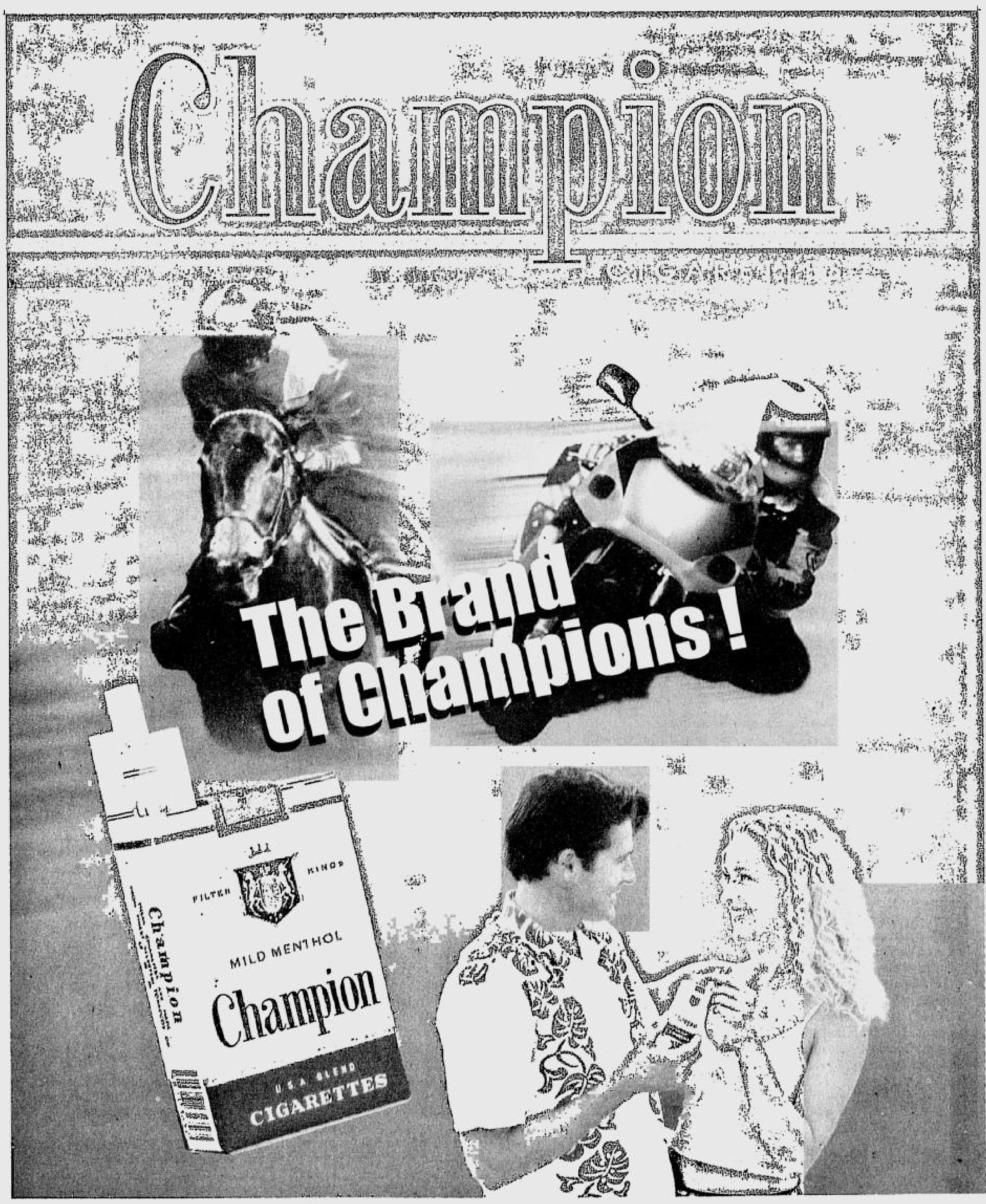

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Realtors battle Aces; Beermen face Express

GAMES TODAY (*Philsports*)
5:00 p.m.-Sta. Lucia vs Alaska
7:30 p.m.-San Miguel vs FedEx

By June Navarro

CAN Sta. Lucia Realty and San Miguel Beer live up to their lofty elimination round billing?

This will be known today when they go up against separate quarterfinal foes in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena.

The top-ranked Realtors meet the Alaska Aces before the Beermen, who secured the No. 2 spot in Group A, tackle the FedEx Express.

The other group saw the fourth-seeded Talk 'N Text Phone Pals humbling the Red Bull Barakos and the Barangay Ginebra Kings downing the Coca-Cola Tigers that completed a day of upsets at the start of the quarterfinals on Sunday.

The Realtors could be standing on shaky ground against the Aces after hiring the services of a new import for their best-of-three quarterfinal clash.

Ray Tutt, who saw action for the Barakos last year, will suit up for the Realtors, replacing Damian Owens, who is nursing a leg injury.

If Tutt could blend pretty well with Kenneth Duremdes, Marlou Aquino, Dennis Espino and the hot-shooting Paolo Mendoza remains to be seen though.

Another thing going for the Aces is the impending return of Ali Peek from the injury list.

Although still a doubtful starter, Peek's surgery on his left knee is fast recuperating and by Alaska coach Tim Cone's estimate, their top local scorer could join them in Game 2.

The odds are also stacked on the Aces' favor as Cone and his troops are fresh from a knockout victory over Purefoods during the weekend while the Realtors are coming off a 10-day break.

The Beermen and the Express split their elimination-round matches, giving both teams an impression of how equal their quarterfinal battle will be.

"The strength of FedEx and our strength are almost the same so there's no clear advantage at all," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico.

But playoffs and championship experience-wise, the Beermen possess the edge over the Express, the league's youngest franchise.

Kwan Johnson need not pour everything for the Beermen since Danny Ildefonso, Olsen Racela, Nic Belasco, Dorian Peña, Boybits Victoria and Joey Mente could also get the job done.

The Express, however, are dependent on the offensive mood of Terrence Shannon with Vergel Meneses, John Ferriols, Yancy de Ocampo, Egay Billones, Renren Ritualo, Roger Yap and Wynne Arboleda forming a potent support group.

SPORTSWATCH

Young Guns golfest slated Dec. 19

STANDOUTS of the country's campaign in the United States will banner the field in the second edition of the Young Guns, a junior golf tournament for boys and girls aged 12 years and under, slated on Dec. 19 at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club. The tourney is part of the school season tournament of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines. It is sponsored by the ICTSI, Nestlé, Gatorade, Golf Depot, Production Village, Media Circuit and Sharexchange. Miguel Tabuena, AR Ramos, Andie Unson and Dottie Ardina are expected to lead the entries. Registration is now under way and expected to fill up very quickly as last year. Entry fee is P750. For more information, call Sharexchange Brokers Inc. at 850-5870/71, look for January Pedrosa.

Holy Cross cagers reach Sweet 16

DUMAGUETE—The Holy Cross Crusaders of Davao demolished West Negros College of Bacolod, 88-69, last night at the Lamberto Macias Cultural and Sports Center to earn the right to represent the Visayas-Mindanao region in the Sweet 16 of the 2004 Champions' League in Manila. The Crusaders will face the defending champions University of the East Red Warriors on Nov. 17 at the Makati Coliseum. Awaiting the winner there will be Big Eight opponent Ateneo or Jose Rizal College on Nov. 20 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Pointguard Dave Nasiad, who could give UE's Paul Artadi some problems, led Holy Cross with 16 points, while shooter Randy Lahay-Lahay had 15 and John Paul Escobal and Alexander Bower 11 points each.

Berroa, Willis voted top rookies

NEW YORK—Kansas City shortstop Angel Berroa beat New York Yankees outfielder Hideki Matsui in the closest AL Rookie of the Year vote in 24 years. Florida pitcher Dontrelle Willis won the NL award. Berroa received 12 first-place votes, seven seconds and seven thirds for 88 points in balloting released Monday by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Matsui got 10 firsts, nine seconds and seven thirds for 84 points. It was the closest vote since the BBWAA adopted the current format in 1980, a year after Minnesota's John Castino and Toronto's Alfredo Griffin tied with seven votes each. *AP*

Roligon 5-cock tilt starts Nov. 29

THE "APORDABOL Na, Incredibol Pa 5-Cock Derby" will be held on Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 11 and 13 at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. A total pot of P2.25 million is at stake. The fastest kill champ will get an imported Nissan Serena as bonus. Promoter Roli Ligon said that there will only be a change in schedule but the same format will be followed. Elimination rounds (2-cock) will be held on Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and 11 while the finale is on Dec. 13. "All the prizes indicated in derby invitations are guaranteed. The P8,800 entry fee is definitely affordable even for small-time cockers, that's why the total number of entries may reach 300," Ligon added. All two pointers in the eliminations (Nov. 29, Dec. 2 and 4) will share the P80,000 prize, while the fastest kill winner gets P30,000. The champion handler and gaffer will receive P150,000 and P80,000, respectively. For details, call 833-2275 and 833-1638.

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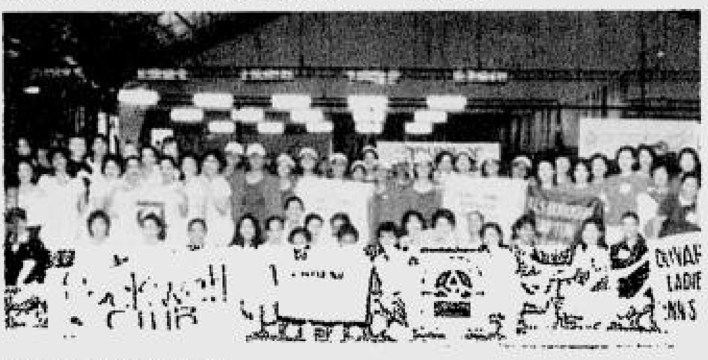
Race 4—1. Max's Princess 2. Golden Prince 3. Captain Stone 4. Alluring 5. Mika's Special
Race 5—1. West Bound 2. Divine Diva 3. Brazen Truth 4. Noble Regent
Race 6—1. Deputy Parade 2. Crisel Joy 3. Wild Guess 4. Fire 5. Taskmania 6. Best Lover
Race 7—1. Inner Wheeler 2. Elusive Quality 3. Spectacular Queen
Race 8—1. Jamie's Princess 2. Nag-iisang Ikaw 3. Run Doding Fly 4. Star Sapphire 5. Master Professor 6. Miwa's Treasure



TENNIS TEAMS
THE ANNUAL Philippine Ladies Tennis League team tournament was held recently at the Manila Polo Club. The league also elected its new set of officers namely Rina Ortiz (president), Elisa Thoburn (vice president), Vangie Magaway (secretary) and Kit Kat Zobel (treasurer). Photo shows the members of participating teams Club 71, Japanese Ladies Team, Phoenix, Tennis Enthusiasts Alliance of Metro Manila, Woodridge, American Women Club of the Philippines, Alabang, Cainta Tennis Federation, Hillborough-Hampton Club, Ladies of Mandaluyong, Rockwell, Valle Verde, Olivarez Ladies Team and Manila Polo Club. The tournament was sponsored by Union Bank, Globe Telecom, Coca-Cola, Dunkin Donuts, Dunlop, Home Alert Safety Products, Dollar Rent-A-Car and Elixir Sports Ventures.

TRIATHLON WINNERS
Winners of the recent 2003 Subaru Forester Enduraman Subic Triathlon Challenge received their trophies during the awarding ceremony at Gerry's Grill. From left are third runner-up Alvin Alindogan (12:03:42), champion Nonoy Jopson (11:28:46) and second runner-up Joel Custodio (12:02:43).

NBA ROUNDUP

James lifts Cavs past Knicks; Lakers lose

CLEVELAND—LeBron James scored 17 points—all on jumpers—and Chris Mihm had 19, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 94-80 win over the listless New York Knicks.

The one rap on James was that he couldn't shoot from the outside, but the rookie star showed nice range in draining seven perimeter shots Monday, including all three of his 3-point attempts.

"Every day in practice I go into the gym and I hear those voices that say I can't shoot," said James, who came in just 2-for-12 on 3-pointers. "I just keep working at it. I know they're going to fall for me, and tonight they did."

James made his first four jumpers as the Cavaliers bolted to a 13-0 lead and built a 22-point lead in the first half.

"This didn't happen by chance," Cavs coach Paul Silas said. "We've worked on it, and he's willing to put the time in."

Ricky Davis added 16 points, seven rebounds and eight assists in just three quarters for the Cavaliers, who have won two straight following an 0-5 start.

Carlos Boozer had 15 points and Zydrunas Ilgauskas 13 for Cleveland, which only won two straight once all last season when it went an NBA-worst 17-65.

Allan Houston scored 22 points on 9-of-25 shooting and Kurt Thomas had 14 points for the Knicks, who have dropped five in a row to Cleveland and nine of their last 10 at Gund Arena.

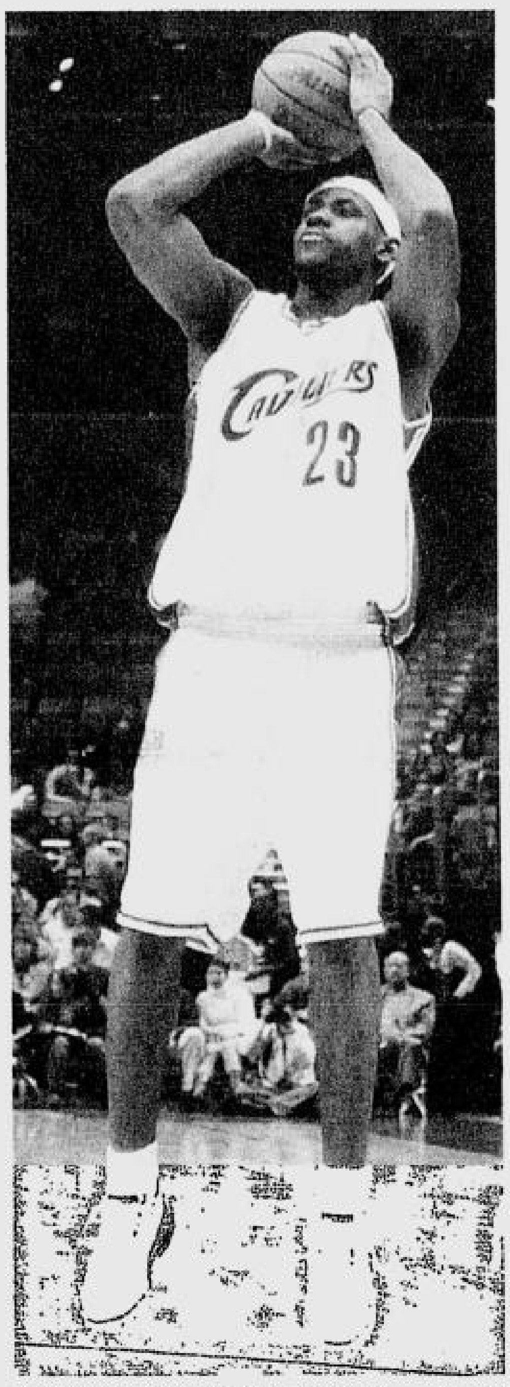
In Memphis, Tennessee, Shane Battier's four-point play with 1:58 left ended the Lakers' last comeback attempt, helping the Memphis Grizzlies beat turnover-prone Los Angeles, 105-95.

The Lakers were uncommonly sloppy, committing turnovers on eight consecutive possessions early in the third quarter to let the game get away from them.

Kobe Bryant scored nine straight fourth-quarter points as the Lakers pulled to 97-89, but Battier—who had just checked in after James Posey fouled out—hit a 3-pointer from the corner and was fouled by Bryant.

Pau Gasol had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Lorenzen Wright and Posey scored 15 apiece and Jason Williams had 10 points, eight assists and five steals.

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan returned to the lineup to score 16 points and grab 10 rebounds, and San Antonio honored former star David Robinson with an 87-78 victory over Utah.



JAMES unloads a three-point shot. REUTERS

Manu Ginobili added 18 points for the NBA champion Spurs, who retired Robinson's No. 50 in a postgame ceremony. Robinson retired last summer after 14 seasons with the Spurs.

Duncan, who missed three games with a sprained left ankle, helped the Spurs beat the Jazz for the 14th straight time. *AP*

Complete results:

Cleveland 94, New York 80; Memphis 105, LA Lakers 95; Denver 105, Chicago 97; San Antonio 87, Utah 78.

Spurs honor 'The Admiral'

SAN ANTONIO—David Robinson took the spotlight one last time for the San Antonio Spurs.

After the Spurs' 87-78 victory over Utah on Monday night, Robinson's No. 50 jersey was hung from the rafters of the SBC Center.

"This is a moment you always dream of, but never think will come," he said. "It's overwhelming. It's awesome."

The 38-year-old Robinson, known as "The Admiral," was credited early in his career with keeping the franchise in San Antonio. He helped the Spurs win their second NBA title last season in his final game.

"This is my final farewell," he said. "This has been a wonderful journey."

When the black shroud was lifted from the white jersey, the fans cheered and began to chant Robinson's name.

The Spurs have retired only three other numbers in their 30 years of existence—James Silas' No. 13, George Gervin's No. 44 and Johnny Moore's No. 00. *AP*

Carrasco, Dumuk get top Seata posts

TOM Carrasco, incoming senior vice president of the Asian Triathlon Confederation (ASTC) and re-elected Asian representative to the International Triathlon Union, was recently voted founding president of the Southeast Asian Triathlon Association (Seata).

Carrasco's secretary general at the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP), Red Dumuk, was also elected Seata's secretary general.

Malaysia's Balwant Singh Kler, Singapore's David Hoong, Thailand's Vijitr Sittinawin, ASTC secretary general, treasurer and executive board member-elect, respectively, and Cahn of ASTC provisional member Vietnam round out the cast of Seata founding members.

Seata's Constitution and by-laws being drafted by Dumuk will be ratified during the TRAP's hosting of the 2003 Asian Triathlon Championship set at Subic Bay Freeport on April 3 and 4.

Top pool pros coming

THE COUNTRY will be hosting the biggest and most exciting 9-ball billiards event of the year by staging the Philippine Invitational and Open Championships on Nov. 26-29 featuring the best and toughest pool players from across and around the world.

Organized by Puyat Sports, the year-ending blockbuster will feature 16 invited seeded players from the United States, Europe, Taiwan, Korea, Japan and host Philippines plus the top 16 qualifiers from the Open tournament.

"We are hosting this event in response to the clamor to hold another pool event featuring the fabled players of 9-ball billiards," said sports patron and Puyat Sports head Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, who is also the owner and breeder of champion racehorses. "*Tuluy-tuloy na*," he added confidently. Only recently, Puyat Sports organized the highly successful On Cue 1 and 2: Battle of Champions won by Mika Immonen and Johnny Archer, respectively.

For this year-ending tournament, the 16 seeded players are:

United States—Earl Strickland, Corey Deuel and Rodney Morris.

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

Europe—Mika Immonen (Finland), Thorsten Hohmann and Ralph Souquet (Germany), and Marcus Chamat (Sweden)

Japan—Kunihiko Takahashi and Hisashi Yamamoto or H. Kawabata.

Taiwan—Yang Chin-Shun, who won the gold medal in last year's Busan Asian Games, defeating the Philippines' Warren Kiamco, 11-3, and Hsia Hui-kai.

Korea—Sin Young Park and Jeong Young-Hwa.

Philippines—Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Canada-based sensation Alex Pagulayan, who won last Sunday's World Pool Billiard Association (WFA-IBC) World Tour Finals 2003 in Japan, beating compatriot Bata Reyes in the championship round.

***

A BREED APART. Super horse Wind Blown, the pride and inspiration of many Filipino sports fans, last Sunday won with flourish the Classic Championship race of the 2003 Philtobo-Mitra Cup, posting his second consecutive comeback victory before a capacity crowd at the Santa Ana Park.

Proud owner Hermie Esguerra said Wind Blown (Hazm-Wind in my Hair) will next race in the much-awaited Marho Breeders Cup Classic on Nov. 23, also at the Santa Ana oval. "We are again hoping not to disappoint his legions of racing fans," said a beaming Esguerra of his millionaire racehorse bred by Sandy Javier and trained by Nestor Manalang.

Considered as the Tiger Woods of Philippine horseracing, Wind Blown is the most popular and winningest Philippine racehorse in recent memory with total earnings of more than P18 million. Wind Blown first won his comeback race last Oct. 26, also at the Santa Ana oval, by coasting to an easy four-

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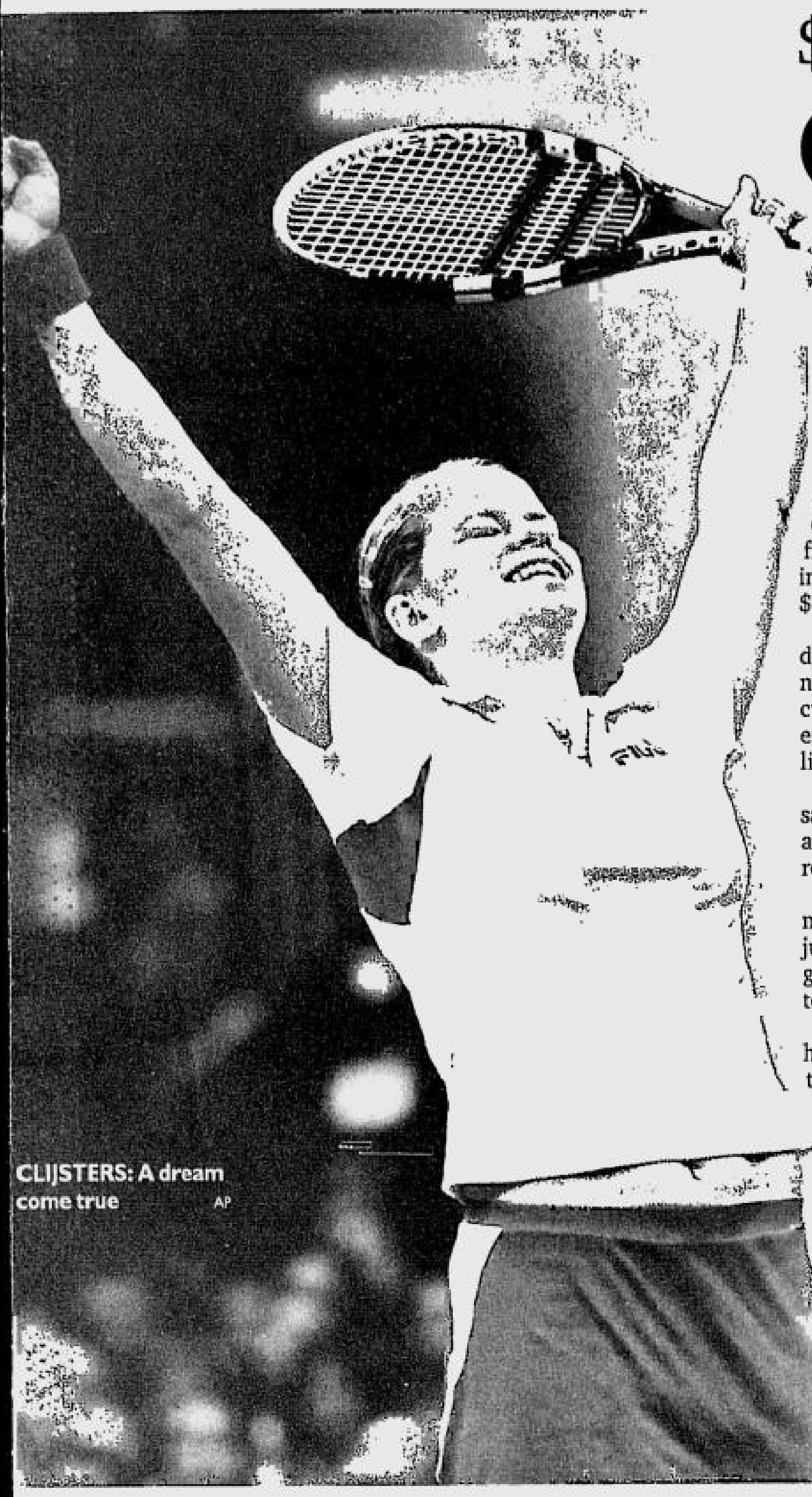


CLIJSTERS: A dream come true AP

$1M RICHER

Clijsters retains WTA crown

LOS ANGELES—Kim Clijsters of Belgium successfully defended her title at the WTA Championships, defeating Amelie Mauresmo of France, 6-2, 6-0.

Clijsters became the first player since Steffi Graf in 1996 to win successive titles at the season-ending tournament.

She earned $1,000,030, the largest prize in women's tennis. The extra $30 represented the WTA Tour's 30th anniversary. Clijsters finished the year with $4,029,094 in earnings, the first female player to win more than $4 million in a season.

"It's a dream come true," she said Monday, singling out Billie Jean King and the nine women who formed the first pro circuit in 1971. "It's because of them that players at this moment can be making a good living."

WTA Tour president and CEO Larry Scott said the event will leave Los Angeles in 2005, and relocate to another American city, Europe or China.

Clijsters dropped her serve to start the match, then dominated Mauresmo, who had just two more break points against the Belgian the rest of the way. She had 16 winners to Mauresmo's eight.

"You want to focus on yourself and not let her back in the match," Clijsters said. "I saw the ball like a football, I was seeing it really well. It's nice to know you can do whatever you want with the ball."

Clijsters broke Mauresmo three times in the first set and served two love games. Her first match point came at 40-love on Mauresmo's serve, but Clijsters netted a backhand. She won on her second match point when Mauresmo's backhand went into the net.

Clijsters raised her arms in triumph and ran to hug Mauresmo at the net. Her victory delighted about 20 Belgians who shouted her name between points. Mauresmo had a small group of beret-topped supporters.

"I did my best but it wasn't good enough," Mauresmo said. "I wasn't finding my rhythm. She played a good game and wasn't making any mistakes. Of course, I helped her by making a lot."

Clijsters won all five of her matches in Los Angeles, including a 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Mauresmo in round-robin play Saturday.

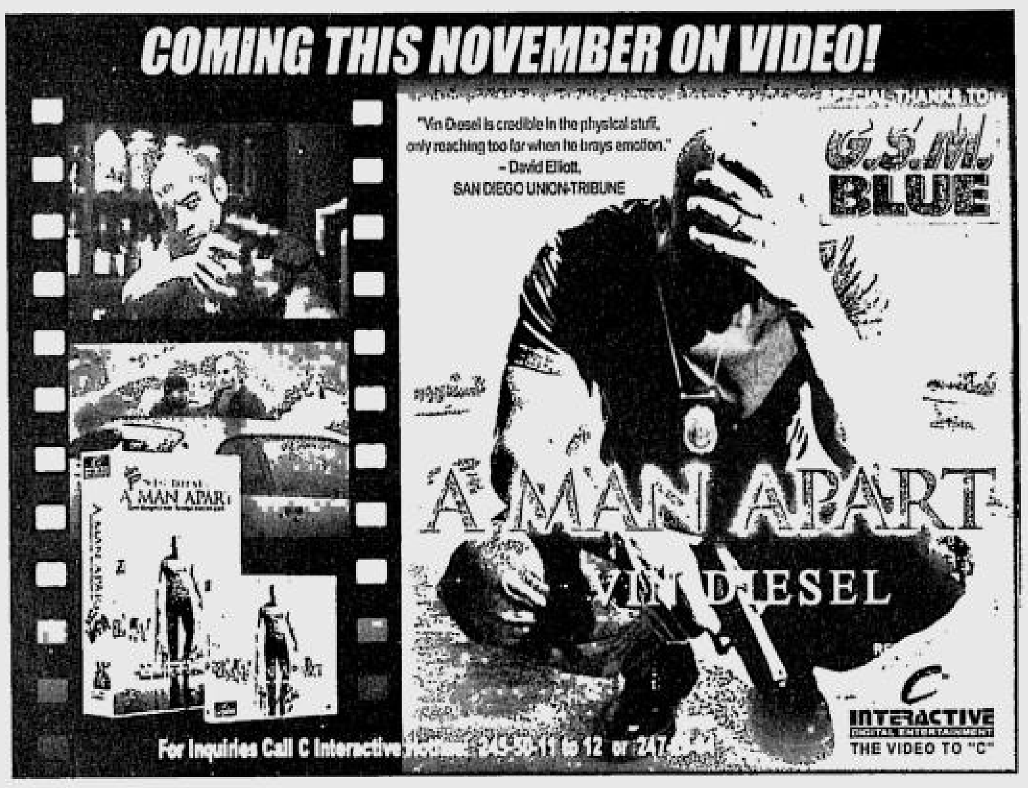
Clijsters finished the year with a 90-12 record and nine titles. She was particularly successful in California, winning titles at Los Angeles, Indian Wells and Carson, and she was a finalist in Carlsbad.

However, Clijsters will drop from No. 1 to No. 2 when the year-end WTA Tour rankings are released. She will finish 75 points behind top-ranked countrywoman Justine Henin-Hardenne, who lost to Mauresmo in a three-set semifinal. *AP*

Celestino, Lim win

SAN Beda entry Nestor Celestino Jr. whipped Alain Gomez, 8-2, and Chiang Kai Shek's Arithmetico Lim clipped Allan Alfafara, 8-3, yesterday to advance in the second round qualifying of the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the PCA outdoor courts.

Other winners were Gabby Remigio over Martin Temblique, 8-5; Maclean Barraquias over Obed Villapaz, 8-5; Bugsy de los Reyes over Don Riego De Dios, 8-5; Edu Manzano over Bernie Rapa, 8-4; Bernie Ogena over Conrado Amita Jr., 8-3 and Rex Hermano over Danilo Bado, 8-3.



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ederer subdues gassi in Houston

FEDERER REUTERS

TON—Wimbledon ion Roger Federer of rland saved two points to beat Andre of the United States,), 6-3, 7-6 (7), at the Masters Cup.

result means Federer s an outside chance of king Andy Roddick for r-end No. 1 ranking.

le eight-time Grand winner Agassi mostly low-risk tennis Mon- derer went for a lot and it paid off. The nked Federer finished with 20 aces otal of 63 winners, overcoming six -faults and 50 unforced errors.

si had just 22 winners and 28 un- errors. He hadn't played a com- match since Sept. 6, when he Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain in Open semifinals.

3, Agassi is the oldest entrant in son-closing championship since

rer is 22, and his legs were fresh- his shots crisper late in the third e erased match points in the ker at 6-5 when Agassi put a nd return in the net and at 7-6 runaround forehand winner.

ded after nearly 2 1/2 hours when Agassi hit a weak forehand volley, and Federer smacked a cross-court forehand passing winner.

In the tournament opener, second-ranked Ferrero played what he called his worst match of 2003, losing to No. 8 David Nalbandian of Argentina, 6-3, 6-1.

"It's one of those days. I didn't hit any winners, and I didn't serve very well," said Ferrero, who won the French Open and lost to Roddick in the US Open final. "It's the first match of the year I play like this. You never know when it's going to come."

With easy shots sent astray and mediocre serving, it sure looked ugly—and could derail Ferrero's bid to pass Roddick for No. 1. Roddick, whose first match is Tuesday against No. 7 Carlos Moya of Argentina, supplanted Ferrero last week.

After the round-robin portion at the $3.65-million event, the top two players in each four-man group advance to the semifinals.

Nalbandian held a 17-6 edge in winners, converted all four break-point opportunities and held serve throughout—all with his left wrist tightly wrapped by white tape because of a lingering injury. *AP*

h in the Saddle & Clubs nder the expert handling il Zarate.

Zarate again steered the loper to another stirring ing Wind Blown's bid to consecutive "Horse of the which the horse richly de- ly because of his winning o because of his tremen- n the sporting scene. Wind rtified crowd drawer. On Ana grossed some P43 g to the government coffer d from the races. With his llowing and contribution ing industry, Wind Blown l apart.

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IT. Deleted from "Cheers v. 10 issue) due to space am taking umbrage at led councilors of Baguio g the go-signal to Camp operate a casino in the ner capital. In these trou- e city government should more jobs, not gambling o people.

Uniform woes hound RP . . .

From page A25

the table tennis chief, has expressed disappointment over the decision, especially since he was recommended by the Philippine Olympic Committee executive board.

"They (PSC) are messing it up," said Valbuena over the phone.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain said the decision was made by the SEA Games technical commission led by Steve Hontiveros.

But Hontiveros said it was the PSC which recommended the second contractor, claiming the first one didn't go through the bidding which is required by the bankrolling PSC.

Buhain also failed to say how much the contract costs. However, there are talks that the contract to make parade shoes was snagged by a PSC insider.

PSC officials added that many didn't approve of the Rustan's outfit because of its multi-colored design.

The new set of uniforms is traditionally designed and made up of jusi to match with black pants. The same goes for the *baro't saya*, which the women will wear.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor **Louie C. Camino**

ROBIN-LIEZEL SPLIT

Joyce one of the 'usual suspects'

By Nini Valera

ACTRESS Joyce Jimenez, whose name has been dragged into the controversial split of Robin Padilla and his wife Liezel Sicangco, said she has not seen the actor for almost two years now.

Joyce, 25, is one of the "usual suspects" in Robin's supposed extra-marital flings.

The others are Vina Morales, a perennial suspect; Jolina Magdanggal, an unlikely suspect; and Judy Ann Santos, a most unusual suspect, whose manager, Alfie Lorenzo, on Monday denied talk that his ward was pregnant with Robin's baby.

Robin refused to give interviews after his statement on Channel 2's "The Buzz" last Sunday, according to his manager Betchay Vidanes.

"He does not want to talk anymore after coming out on 'The Buzz,'" said Betchay. "*Hinihiwalayan ka na nga ng asawa mo, paano ka pa magsasalita* (How could you talk about it when your wife is already leaving you?)"

"He is busy taping everyday for his shows," Betchay said in a cell phone conversation with INQUIRER Entertainment yesterday.

She said Robin is scheduled to go to Australia where Liezl and their children reside.

Over lunch with INQUIRER Entertainment yesterday at a restaurant in Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City, Joyce said the issue linking her to Robin had been a closed issue as early as four years ago, when they starred together in the movie "Bilib Ako Sa 'Yo."

"I don't remember the last time I saw Robin," she said. "*Matagal na*, maybe two years ago. I'm a bit surprised why I am included in the controversy. Like what *Tita* Shirley (Kwan, her manager) says, I'm always one of the usual suspects."

Businesswoman

Joyce herself is too busy to discuss the Robin issue. She has gone back to school last September, to Thames Business School, also in Libis, where she is taking a degree in Business Administration, major in Marketing.

Thames is an international university accredited by Cambridge University in London, England.

"I've wanted to go back to school since last year," Joyce revealed. "But I already had commitments so I couldn't go back then. Later on, *Tita* Shirley and I arranged it so that I would have no contracts that would be left hanging when I went to school."

Joyce said she went back to school because of her businesses. She is part-owner of Private Joyce, a line of intimate apparel, and Private Joyce Skin, bath and skin care products.

"Even if I learned a lot from *Tita* Shirley about the business and from my hands-on experience, I felt it would still be best to go to school," said Joyce.

Compromise

There were, however, some adjustments she had to make to be able to pursue a university degree.

"I haven't been to school in five years," she said. "Campus life is very different from what I do. So there were adjustments.

"If I have work, I work after school. So I had to adjust my schedules. Right now, I'm not doing any movie and just concentrating on my studies."

Joyce is in class by 9 a.m. and out by 9:30 p.m., "depending on what day it is." Sometimes, she's out of school by 4 p.m. and off to a taping for a television guesting.

"I can still work even if I'm in school," she said. "My colleagues understand what I am trying to do. In Thames, they also know that I'm a working student so there's some compromise involved.

"But my teachers treat me like any other student. I have to turn in requirements on time. When I'm on campus, I'm just a regular student."

"Most of my classmates are younger than I am. They're 18 or 19, and have just come straight out of high school. They're nice to me *naman*. I've never had any unpleasant experience in school."

'Pantasya'

Had she not become an actress in the Philippines, Joyce Jimenez of Los Angeles, California, would have been a university graduate by now. But a three-year movie contract had lured her to stay in the country to "see what happens." She was then 18.

"After the contract, I'd only be 21, so there was still time for me to go back to school," she said. "But I never expected what happened to happen. Not in my wildest dreams did I think I would be a big name in Philippine movies."

She admitted it was hard at first to handle the fame.

"Like this 'Pantasya ng Bayan,' I didn't expect any of that. I was freaked out at first when people would point at me and called my name. But it's also flattering."

Not at ease with her success, Joyce has even transformed her name into a brand.

"If I didn't become an actress, I wouldn't have had Private Joyce," she said. "I know that."

"I also knew then when I was being given that movie contract that a lot of girls would have died for it. So why not? I told myself. I'd rather try and fail. That way, I wouldn't have regrets in life."

CASE CLOSED. Joyce says the issue linking her to Robin was closed four years ago. RUDY ESPERAS

Afghan beauty condemned, Honduran crowned

By Marinel R. Cruz

MISS Afghanistan Vida Samadzai, a California resident condemned in her native country for wearing a swimsuit and competing in Sunday night's Miss Earth 2003 in Manila, was awarded the pageant's first "beauty for a cause" award.

Samadzai is the first Afghan to join a beauty contest after 30 years and more than a year after the collapse of the country's Taliban government, which prohibited Afghan women from wearing clothes that revealed too much skin.

Taliban religious leaders insisted that females cover themselves from head to toe in burqas when they ventured out in public.

Samadzai, 25, was not among the contest's 10 semifinalists, but she was awarded for her "dedication and self-sacrifice as a volunteer fund raiser and as a founder of an Afghan women's rights organization."

According to an Associated Press report, a senior Afghan justice official said Samadzai could face persecution if she returned to her native country for parading in a bikini at the contest.

Fazel Ahmad Manawi, deputy head of Afghanistan's Supreme Court, told AP that Samadzai betrayed Afghan culture by appearing at the Miss Earth contest wearing a swimsuit.

"I hope that this lady regrets her actions," Manawi told AP. He added that Afghan prosecutors may open an investigation, but refused to say what charges or penalties Samadzai could face.

A teary-eyed Samadzai accepted the award at the University of the Philippines Theater in Diliman, Quezon City Sunday night.

"My country wants peace more than anything," Samadzai had told INQUIRER Entertainment in an earlier interview. "We see this pageant as one way of implementing change in Afghanistan, which is now in the process of reconstruction."

Dania Prince of Honduras won the Miss Earth 2003 title after choosing love and life over "a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow" in the final question to the competition's four top scorers.

Prince, a 25-year-old advertising student, received the highest scores in the interview, swimsuit, and long gown competitions, and for her reply to the final question: "At the end of the rainbow is a pot of gold. As a woman of the earth, what else would you rather find at the end of the rainbow?"

"In honesty, there are things much important on earth than gold," said the Central American beauty, adding that she would rather find "love and life" at the end of the rainbow.

Prince bested 56 other young women from all over the world.

Brazil's Pricila Zandona, 23, a biology graduate came in second as Miss Earth-Air.

Zandona earlier won the special award for best in evening gown title.

Another Latina candidate, Costa Rica's Marianela Zeledon, 20, a pharmacy student, was third as Miss Earth-Water, and Poland's Marta Matyjasik, 21, a commerce student and professional model, was fourth, Miss Earth-Fire.

Philippine representative Laura Marie Dunlap was one of the 10 semifinalists, along with Norway's Fay Larsen, Guatemala's Marie Claire Palacios, Cyprus' Christiana Aristotelous, Tahiti's Vairupe Huiotu, and Serbia and Montenegro's Katarina Vucetic.

Bolivia's Claudia Azaeda bagged the Miss Photogenic award while Panama's Jessica Segui was chosen best in national costume.

Ethiopia's Yodit Getahun was Miss Friendship; Miss France Jennifer Pichard, best in swimsuit; and Miss Bosnia and Herzegovina Mirela Bulbulija, Miss Talent.

The Miss Earth pageant, launched in 2001 by Carousel Productions, will be shown on Nov. 28 at 9 p. m. in the 35 countries covered by Star World, the entertainment channel of the Star Group Ltd., as well on The Filipino Channel, ABS-CBN's cable channel.

PEACE! Miss Earth 2003 (second from left) clutches a symbolic dove after being crowned with runners-up from (from left) Brazil, Costa Rica and Poland. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

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They are hosts of competing noontime shows in rival networks, but on the golf course, **Vic Sotto** of GMA 7's "Eat Bulaga" and **Willie Revillame** of ABS-CBN's "Masayang Tanghali Bayan" are good buddies who enjoy a game together. Willie and Joey de Leon, Vic's co-host on "Eat Bulaga," reportedly might star together in a movie comedy.

SHOW TIME

Join Frenzy, party with Mandy

IT'S all systems go for the much-anticipated bash of the year, the MTV Music Summit for AIDS, which aims to promote HIV/AIDS awareness among Filipino youth.

Local stars, recording artists, youth role models and your favorite MTV VJs headline the personalities who will be present at the event to groove and move to the music of safe sex and HIV.

International pop sensation Mandy Moore, who recorded the smash hits "Candy," "Cry" and "Only Hope," will headline the musical extravaganza.

Frenzy gives away free tickets to the event. All you have to do is get into the Frenzy Circle, Frenzy Condom's hip and happening youth adult membership club that serves as your guide to the coolest events and hottest promos.

The Frenzy Circle is also a venue where you can talk about youth-related concerns including sexuality.

You may join the Frenzy Circle on-line via www.frenzy.com.ph.

For the music summit, MTV will be working in partnership with party condom Frenzy, an advocate of safe sex and STD/HIV-AIDS awareness.

The MTV Music Summit for AIDS is on Friday, Nov. 21, at The Fort grounds at the Bonifacio Global City.

HITMAKER Moore

Taking interviewees on TV for granted

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MORE talk and panel-discussion shows are being produced by local TV networks these days, partly as a hedge against the rising cost of full productions like dramas, sitcoms, variety shows and newscasts.

There's nothing wrong with talk on TV, especially when the interviewers are astute, and the interviewees have something interesting and insightful to say.

But some frequent interviewees have been complaining that talk shows are taking them for granted, giving them next to nothing for their guesting stints on TV. It's gotten so bad that some of them now refuse to appear on the small screen, as a sort of silent protest against TV people's cavalier treatment of them.

One of them sniffs, "Everyone involved in a talk show gets paid professional fees—the interviewer, the production and technical people, even the make-up artists. But the interviewee often gets only peanuts, or a gift certificate, or a small gift.

"This is unfair, because, if you really think about it, what would a talk show be without us interviewees? The hosts would have to end up interviewing each other, or the cameramen, or the make-up artists!

"It's clear, therefore, that interviewees should get pretty much what interviewers are paid. Otherwise, let them make do with less interesting or well-known interviewees who are happy to appear on TV for a pittance."

We asked some TV people for their reaction to this, and they professed to be surprised, because they thought that well-known personalities didn't see guesting on talk shows as a pesos-and-centavos thing.

They pointed out that many interviewees have a cause or angle to pitch on TV, and that is their real recompense for appearing on a show. The honoraria or small gifts are really just tokens of the show's appreciation, not a materialistic recompense for work rendered.

Besides, many celebrity interviewees are wealthy in their own right, and don't really care all that much if they're paid or not.

Some interviewees beg to disagree. They point out that they aren't as wealthy as TV people presume, and that guesting on TV takes a lot of time and effort. So, their request or demand for more equitable compensation stays.

> 'This is unfair because what would a talk show be without us?'

Unicef prize for RP docu

"School of the Highlands," a video documentary produced by the Asian Council for People's Culture, was awarded the Unicef prize at the 30th Japan Prize International Educational Program competition.

The winning video presents indigenous peoples' unique perspectives on education. Five case studies dramatize the efforts of Mindanao tribal communities and their elders to preserve their vanishing traditions through the establishment of culturally responsive schools.

The ACPC documentary focused on tribal schools in remote rural areas where educational and social services are often nonexistent. The schools thrive on community initiatives and the volunteer services of local educators, parents, tribal leaders and NGOs.

ACPC supports the communities with the development of culturally responsive curricula, teacher training, and the establishment of local schools.

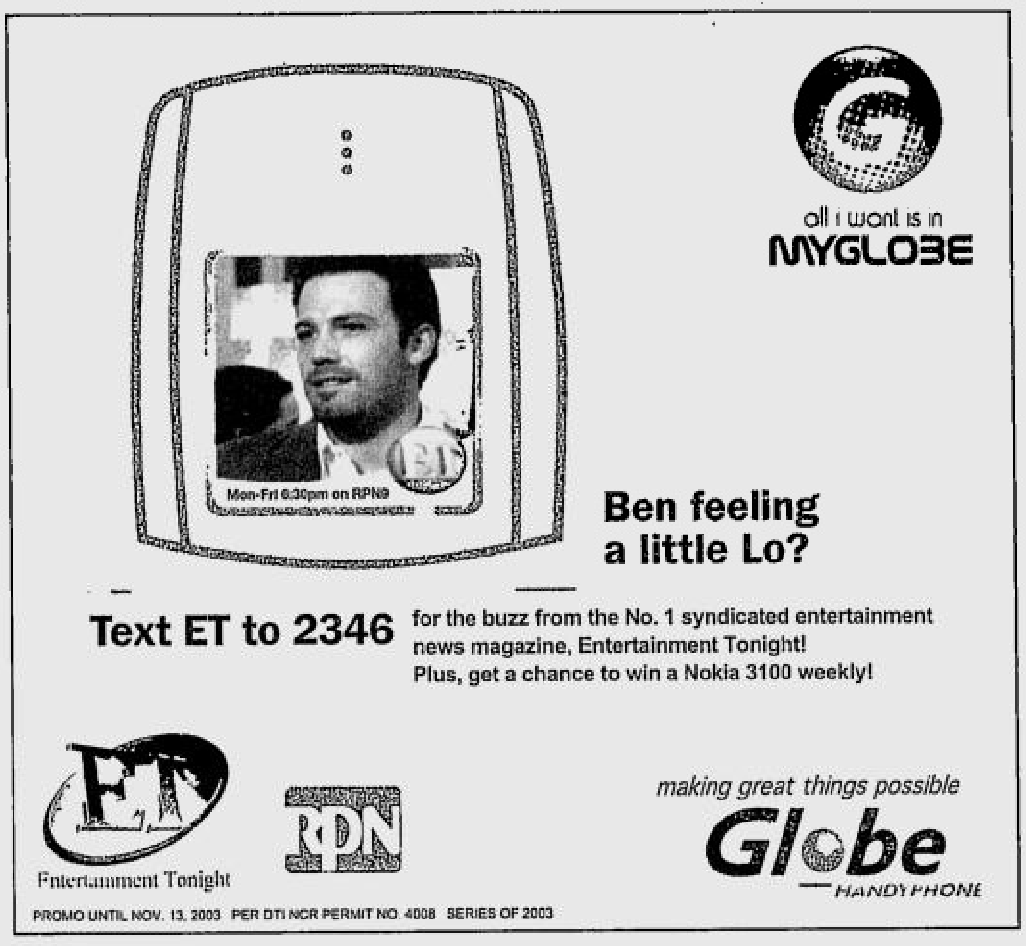
"School of the Highlands" was filmed by **Romulo Regalado**, and produced by ACPC's Research and Documentation Unit and the Philippine-Australia Governance Facility (PAGF), in cooperation with Broederlijk Delen and Cordaid.

'Monsoon Wedding'

Mira Nair's acclaimed film, "Monsoon Wedding," will be screened at Greenbelt 1 ArtFilm, and will be discussed by the ArtFilm Coffee Club after the 7:30 p.m. screening tonight.

The movie was hailed as the best film at the 2001 Venice international filmfest.

The family comedy-drama weaves together many stories of passion and realization, and presents a gallery of quirky relatives as the Verna family celebrates a wedding. We've seen this film and can vouch for its high entertainment and thematic value. Call 817-5670.



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Singapore Airlines (SIA) presented to Gina Lopez (second from left), managing director of ABS-CBN Foundation Inc., and Children's Village manager Vicky Libao (extreme left) a P5-million donation to Bantay Bata 163 during the recent inauguration of the Bantay Bata Children's Village, to fund the grade school education of 112 Bantay Bata children in 2003-2009. Presenting the symbolic check are (from middle) SIA SVP for Southeast Asia Teh Ping Choon, SIA's Yoke Kheng Jennifer Yoong and SIA GM for the Philippines David Lau.

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Workshops on acting, TV production

GRUPONG Tinta, in collaboration with the UP Film Institute, will offer its 4th Basic Acting Workshop on Film and TV and its 1st TV Production Workshop from December 2003 to January 2004.

The intensive acting workshop will be handled by Carlitos Siguion Reyna, Jose Javier Reyes, Mel Chionglo, Bodjie Pascua, Rahyan Carlos and many more.

The participants will act in a telesine production, with professional actors. The telesine will showcase the acting talents of the workshop participants, with the audience composed of talent managers and TV and movie producers.

Some of the participants in previous basic acting workshops have found their way to soap operas and other TV shows.

The basic acting workshop for teens and adults has 10 sessions, Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The basic acting workshop for children 9-12 years old has 10 sessions also, Saturdays and Sundays, 8-10 a.m.; for children 4 to 8 years old, 10 sessions, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

The TV production workshop for 16 years old and up has 10 sessions, Saturdays and Sundays, 8 a.m.-12 noon. No professional acting or TV production experience is necessary. This will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration is on Nov. 16 and 23 at the UP Film Center Institute, Diliman, Quezon City. Call 926-8668 or (0916)582-3085.

24

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Debit - credit = kupit
Cocktales/B3

T-BILL RATES RISE

Peso rallies to 55.17 to $1

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT'S cost of borrowing continued to go up yesterday even as the peso rebounded following what most traders described as a brief respite from adverse political developments owing to the House of Representatives' move to heed the Supreme Court's decision on the impeachment case against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

The peso yesterday closed at 55.17 to $1, up almost 20 centavos from 55.365 last Monday.

Despite its improved performance, the peso remained the weakest currency in the region after losing 2.9 percent of its value since the start of the year.

Yesterday, however, the local currency was the second-best performer in Asia as it recovered to 55.11 to $1 but dollar purchases of the central bank spoiled what would have been a stronger recovery, according to traders.

They said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas accounted for as much as $30 million of the $240.6-million turnover yesterday. But instead of selling, the BSP bought dollars when the peso rallied to 55.11 to $1.

"The peso was influenced positively by the better market sentiment following the decision on the impeachment case. There was also some foreign exchange inflow and stronger regional currency, particularly in the morning," according to BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

But major regional currencies, particularly the Japanese yen and the Thai baht, closed lower yesterday.

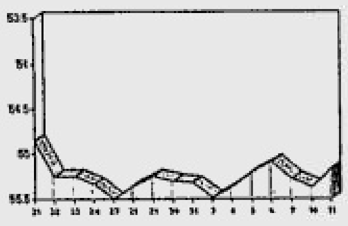
While the peso gained, the rate on four-year treasury bonds rose to 10.125 percent from 10 percent in August. Despite the higher

PESO/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

OCTOBER NOVEMBER



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 55.17 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 11, 2003

¥ 108.82 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 11, 2003

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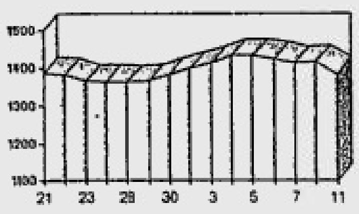
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 11, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

OCTOBER NOVEMBER



(See stock market report on Page B7)

Stocks drop on political worries

STOCKS yesterday fell to their lowest level in eight days as political uncertainty and fears of higher interest rates spooked players.

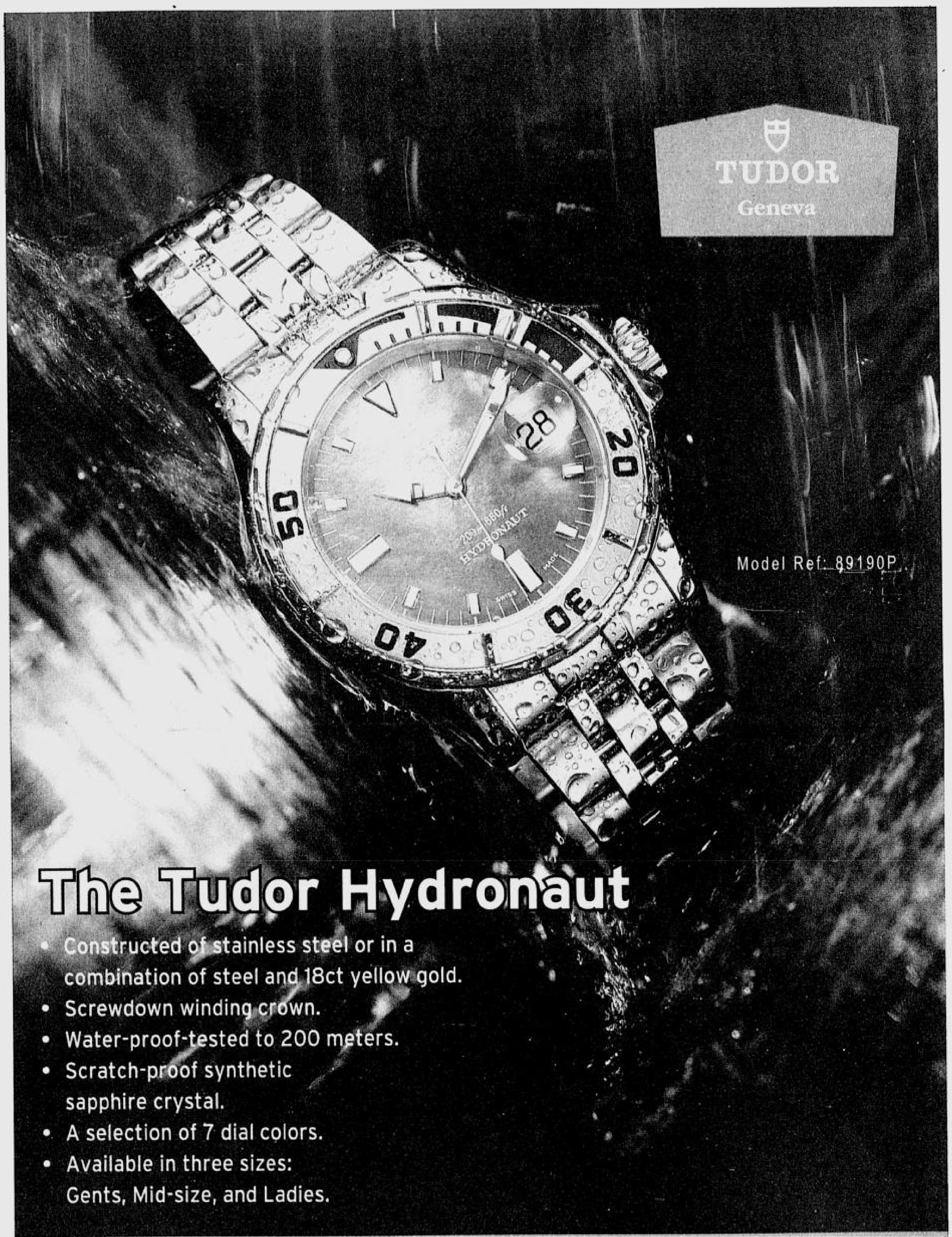
"This is due to a number of factors. There are political uncertainties. Secondly, the market reacted to the sharp rise in 91-day T-bill rate. Higher interest rates are bad for equities," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

The Philippine main index fell 1.81 percent or 25.53 percent points to 1,383.81 points, the lowest since Oct. 30. It was the fifth straight day the market ended lower.

The index is still up 35.88 percent so far this year.

Value turnover rose to P548.8 million from Monday's P333.4 million. Losers beat gainers 47 to 10 and there were 29 stocks unchanged.

Reuters



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DBM restricts gov't spending in Q4

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Budget Department yesterday said it would soon issue a circular restricting spending of government agencies in the fourth quarter to ensure that the budget deficit this year would remain within the ceiling of P202 billion.

In particular, the memorandum aims to control constructive cash, an item that accounts for P8 billion of the P19 billion in excess government spending during the third quarter.

Constructive cash refers to portion of foreign loans that requires counterpart funding on the part of the government.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said an agreement between the Department of Finance and the DBM, to be signed by both, would serve as the basis for a memorandum that would be issued to government agencies implementing foreign-assisted projects.

Starting October, the budget department vowed to keep spending within targets. Boncodin said the government had kept expenditures within the P70-billion ceiling for October. The government also committed to hit the targets in the remaining two months of the year.

Boncodin said a circular would be issued requiring adequate Saro (special allotment release order) cover for constructive cash.

"Receipt of constructive cash without allotment is illegal," she said.

The budget department will require agencies to seek clearance before paying any creditor. The move will allow the DBM to ensure that the disbursement is covered by a Saro and included in the cash program of the involved agency.

She said that violation of the circular would constitute malversation of public funds. A Saro is a notice authorizing the disbursement of government funds to provide counterpart funding for a particular project.

In 2002, constructive cash reached about P24 billion against a target of only P8 billion and was partly responsible for the swollen deficit of P210.7 billion.

Boncodin said the agreement to be forged with the DOF and the COA would also call for close coordination among agencies involved as well as the donor community. A loan agreement, said the budget chief, did not constitute an automatic approval and implementation of the ODA project.

In the fourth quarter, the government must spend only P205.7 billion and earn at least P152.3 billion to keep the deficit within the P52.5-billion target in the last three months.

Domestic bond flotation shelved

LOCAL tax issues that could make a $250-million fundraising program less attractive to investors prompted the Department of Finance to abandon a domestic bond flotation through the banks' dollar deposit units.

Instead, National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government had decided to go for an offshore float of dollar bonds.

Edeza yesterday said the dollar bonds would carry a tenor of three years to be underwritten by First Metro Investment Corp., HSBC and the Land Bank of the Philippines. The proceeds of the issue will form part of the $1-billion pre-funding for 2004.

"We have tax issues and we don't want to complicate the exercise. The retail bonds would have been slapped while a euro dollar bond will be free of taxes," explained the treasurer.

A dollar bond issue sold outside the United States is called a euro dollar bond, which is, however, different from a euro-denominated bond issue. Government sources said the Philippines' upcoming bond issue would be launched in Asia.

The $250-million, three-year bond issue will be the last foreign sovereign borrowing for the year although the government would continue to tap the local market for funds.

Edeza said the remaining financing requirement for 2004 worth $800 million would be raised in the first quarter next year.

Of the $1.8 billion requirement for next year, the government had already raised about $800 million last month from the sale of $1.05 billion worth of long-term global bonds.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said monetary authorities would prefer the national government borrowing all of its requirements next year while rates were still reasonable.

But Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho was reluctant to borrow way ahead of demand as it would entail paying interest rates for money the government did not need yet. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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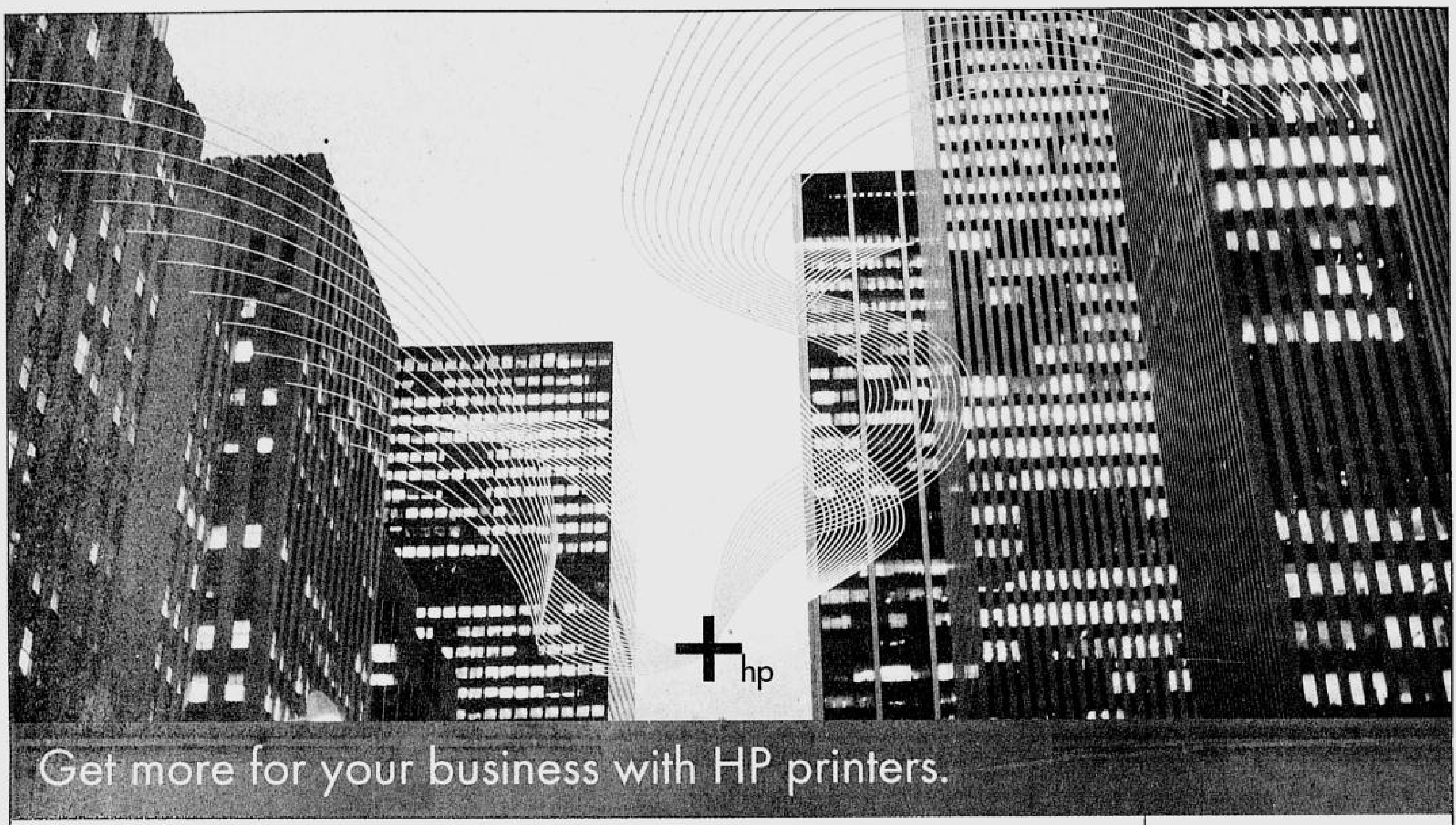

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Victor C. Agustin

MUKHANG pasang-awa lamang sa accounting *si* "Wimpy" Fuentebella *maski pa man nakatapos ito ng* Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration *sa* UP Diliman.

*Alam ba ninyo na kinailangan pang i-*Tagalog *ng* COA auditors *at* Supreme Court accountant *ang* audit recommendations *patungkol sa* Judiciary Development Fund *nang ang Kongreso ay mag-*hearing *noong Agosto* 12?

Pinagpipilitan kasi ng kongresista mula sa Camarines Sur *na ang ibig sabihin ng* audit findings *na may* "erroneous bookkeeping" *at* "overstated inventory accounts" *ay may kumupit ng* JDF funds.

Nagulat kasi si Fuentebella—*nakatapos din ito sa* Ateneo, hah!—*dahil nakita ng* Commission on Audit *na may* P801 milyon *na nasa bangko ang* JDF funds *samantalang nasa* accounting records *ay* P591 *milyon lamang.*

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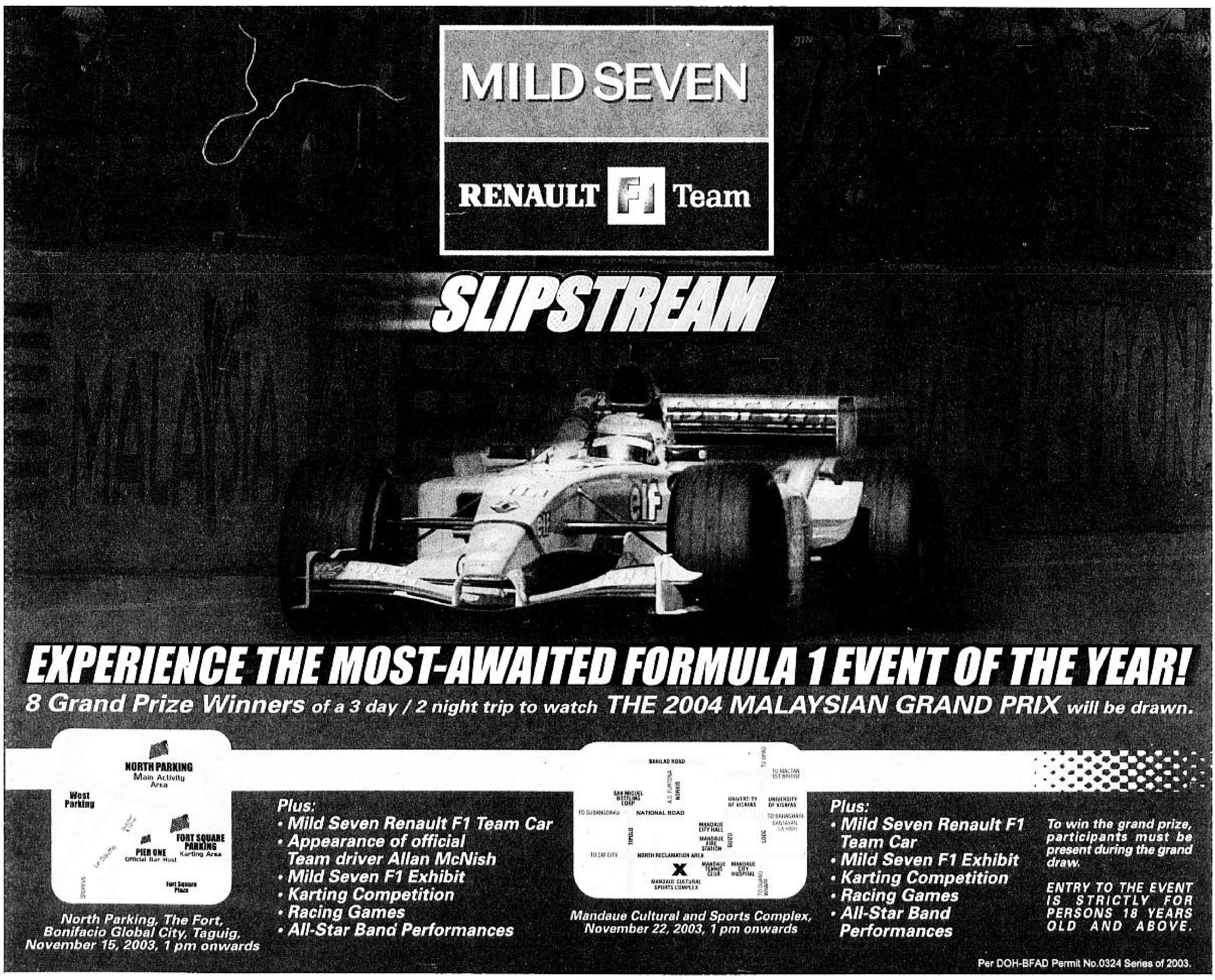

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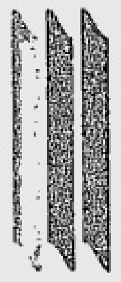

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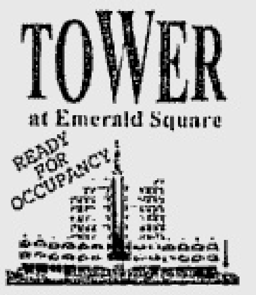

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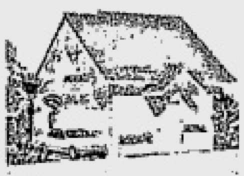

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Notice is hereby given that the estates of the late ROSALINA ESTABILLO NAREDO and ULPIANO NILO NAREDO, consisting of their conjugal share over two real estate properties and improvements located at #79 Interior Kamias Quezon City and #20 Mapagmaha Street, referred as Property Index nos: 93125 (and 93125-A) and 9-2797 (9-2797-1001) respectively, and were adjudicated to his surviving heirs namely, Barbara Mae Naredo-Dacanay, Editha Naredo, Evangelina C. Naredo and Olive Joy C. Naredo by means of public document executed on Nov 10, 2003 and ratified before Atty. Alfonso B. Pajimna, Notary public for and in Quezon City, Metro Manila and entered into his Notarial Registry as Doc. No. 461 Page No. 94; Book No. 481, Series of 2003.
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Peso rallies to 55.17 to $1

From page B1

bids, the auction committee led by the Bureau of Treasury gave a full award of P3 billion out of offers reaching P10.36 billion.

"We feel the rate was acceptable considering the secondary market was at 10.3 percent," said Deputy Treasurer Mina Figueroa. When the peso is stronger, there is less justification for the market to bid up treasury rates.

But traders pointed out that the market was not entirely appeased by the outcome of the Lower House's session on Monday afternoon as the tension among pro- and anti-impeachment congressmen remained high.

"The market is still on a wait-and-see attitude because nobody is sure what would happen. If Monday's decision to respect the Supreme Court (decision) would be sustained for the meantime, we would see range trading on the peso and slightly higher bids for treasuries," said a treasury official from a foreign bank.

The peso could take advantage of increasing dollar inflow from overseas workers to gather strength.

The government is expecting Filipinos abroad to send about $7.7 billion this year and remittance usually peaks in November to December.

Cocktales

From page B3

counting records, *paliwanag ng* COA auditor Cecilia Caga-anan *at* COA Director Dominador Tersol.

May 1,377 clerks of courts *na araw-araw kumokolekta ng* JDF funds *sa buong bansa, at araw-araw din kailangan ideposito agad ito sa bangko. Ang siste, hindi naman sila araw-araw na nagpapadala ng* financial reports *sa Maynila.*

Samakatuwid, huli ang reporting *kaysa sa* actual deposits. *Natural, hindi nga magtutugma ang pera sa bangko (mas marami) kaysa* COA audit (*mas huli*).

Dahil hindi lamang maintidihan ito ni Wimpy *at ka-kosang si* Gilbert Teodoro *at mga bata ni* Danding, *gusto ngayon nilang si* Chief Justice *ang magpaliwanag ng kanilang kamangmangan?*

(*Dapat ilagay ng* Supreme Court *sa kanilang* website *ang buong* transcript *ng* House committee on justice hearings. *Nakakahiya ang mga kabalbalan na lumitaw doon sa* question-and-answer portion. *Tama ang kasabihan sa Ingles,* "Money and power will not buy you brains.")

Bukol sa Bicol

ANG PALUSOT ni Wimpy Fuentebella, *gusto lang naman niyang malaman kung bakit lumiliit ang* JDF allowance *ng mga kawani ng mga korte sa kaniyang distrito.*

Ang hindi sinasabi ni kongressman—nagturo pa mandin ito ng religion *bago nalulong sa pulitika—alam na niya ang dahilan bago pa siya namuno ng* impeachment complaint *sa* Chief Justice.

Noong Setyembre 9, *ipinadala na sa Kongreso ng* clerk of court *ng* Naga City, Egmedio Blacer, *ang report sa* JDF collections *ng probinsiya mula* 2000-2002. *Ipinadala ito dahil hiningi mismo ni* Fuentebella *ang* records.

Ayon sa Naga clerk of court, *ang* JDF collection *nila noong* 2000 *ay* P11.3 *milyon. Bumaba ito ng* P4.47 *milyon noong* 2001. *Lalo pa itong sumadsad sa* P2.89 *milyon sa taong* 2002.

Ang tanong ngayon, bakit sisisihin ng mga Bicolano ang Chief Justice *at guguluhin ang bansa sa lumiliit na koleksyon nila?*

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Unknown to the public, the Commission on Audit is only one of the three agencies (the others are from France and South Africa) accredited by the United Nations to audit the New York headquarters as well as other UN agencies and missions scattered around the world.

Every year, the COA sends about 100 auditors worldwide for UN assignments, which may take anywhere from one month to a month and a half. The 100 are chosen nationwide after competitive written and oral examinations and the mandatory training program.

While overseas, the United Nations takes care of the living expenses while at the same time reimbursing COA for the actual salary of the personnel for the duration of the foreign assignment. Excluding plane fare, the lucky COA auditor gets about $500 a day in allowances. That's about $15,000 in a month.

More than the money, a number of exciting job opportunities abroad materialize, which many local auditors naturally grab.

Heard through the grapevine

AIRLINES in the United States now also check the green cards of US immigrants leaving for overseas destinations and input the data into their computers linked with the Department of Homeland Security.

In one case, a US immigration official at a port of entry even wrote down the actual departure/arrival dates on the Philippine passport of a returning green card holder.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com).

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Document Feeder	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	15 sheets	15 sheets
Navigator Key	●	●	●	●	●	●		
64-Level Halftone	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Copy Speed				2 PPM	4 PPM	4 PPM	2 PPM	10 PPM
Digital Speaker Phone			●			●	●	
Document Memory			20 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	120 pages (max)
Digital Answering System			●			●	●	
Sequential Broadcast			10 locations	20 locations	20 locations	20 locations	60 locations	60 locations
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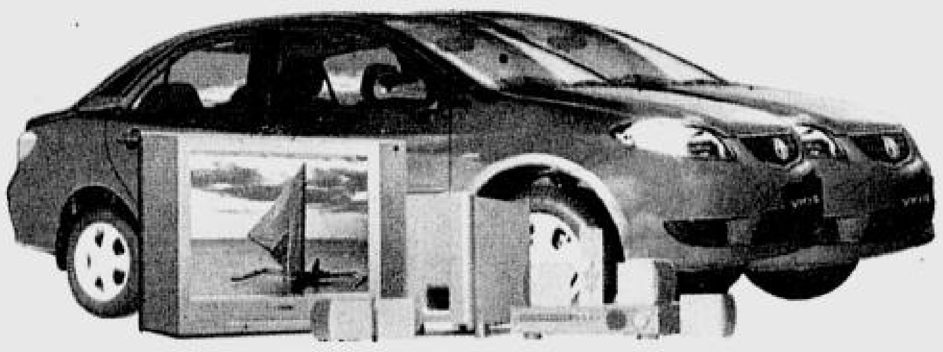

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7 RESERVED
8 INNER SENSES

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2 THE PHONE
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 DARK BLUE
6 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 MAPANUKSO
8 IDENTITY
9 MY FIRST ROMANCE
10 THE WISHER
11 TEMPTING HEART
12 LIBERATED

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OPENS
Nov. 21

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
11:30 FS/12:00 MF/2:45/5:30/8:15/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:15 END

2 DARK BLUE
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:00 END

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2 DARK BLUE	5 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
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7 WISHER	9 MY FIRST ROMANCE
8 LIBERATED	10 IDENTITY

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2 THE PHONE
3 LIBERATED
4 DARK BLUE
5 WISHER
6 WRONG TURN
7 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS -

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2 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 THE PHONE
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6 WRONG TURN
7 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 LIBERATED

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2 UPTOWN GIRLS
3 TEMPTING HEART
4 DARK BLUE
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 WRONG TURN
7 THE PHONE
8 LIBERATED

Star Mills San Fernando Pampanga (045)875-1927 (045)961-5270		Imus (046)471-0188 / 875-5858
UPTOWN GIRLS	1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
LIBERATED	2	WRONG TURN
THE SUSPECT	3	LIBERATED
IDENTITY	4	DARK BLUE
DARK BLUE	5	MY FIRST ROMANCE
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	6	MAPANUKSO

Bacolod (034)441-0458/59		Iloilo (033)336-8070 to 78
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
FREAKY FRIDAY	2	FREAKY FRIDAY
MY FIRST ROMANCE	3	INNER SENSES
MATCHSTICK MEN	4	UNDERWORLD
THE SUSPECT	5	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
UATNG NG AMA	6	MAPUPULANG LABI

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0907		Lipa, Batangas Old National Highway, Mataas na Lupa
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
THE PHONE	2	LIBERATED
MAPUPULANG LABI	3	UPTOWN GIRLS
IDENTITY	4	UNDERWORLD
UNDERWORLD	5	IDENTITY

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1 WRONG TURN
2 LIBERATED
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 MAPANUKSO

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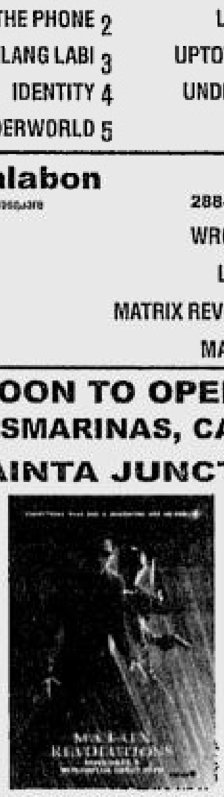

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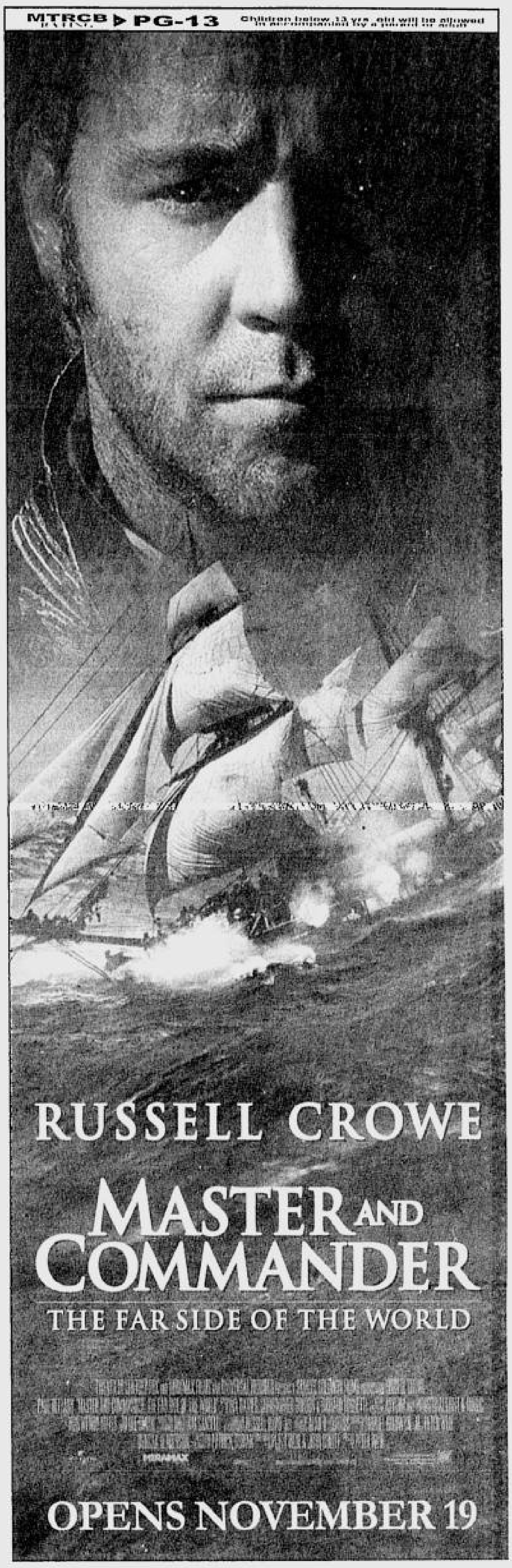

OPENS NOVEMBER 19

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND • EX

MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10	DARK BLUE R18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30	WRONG TURN R18 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30

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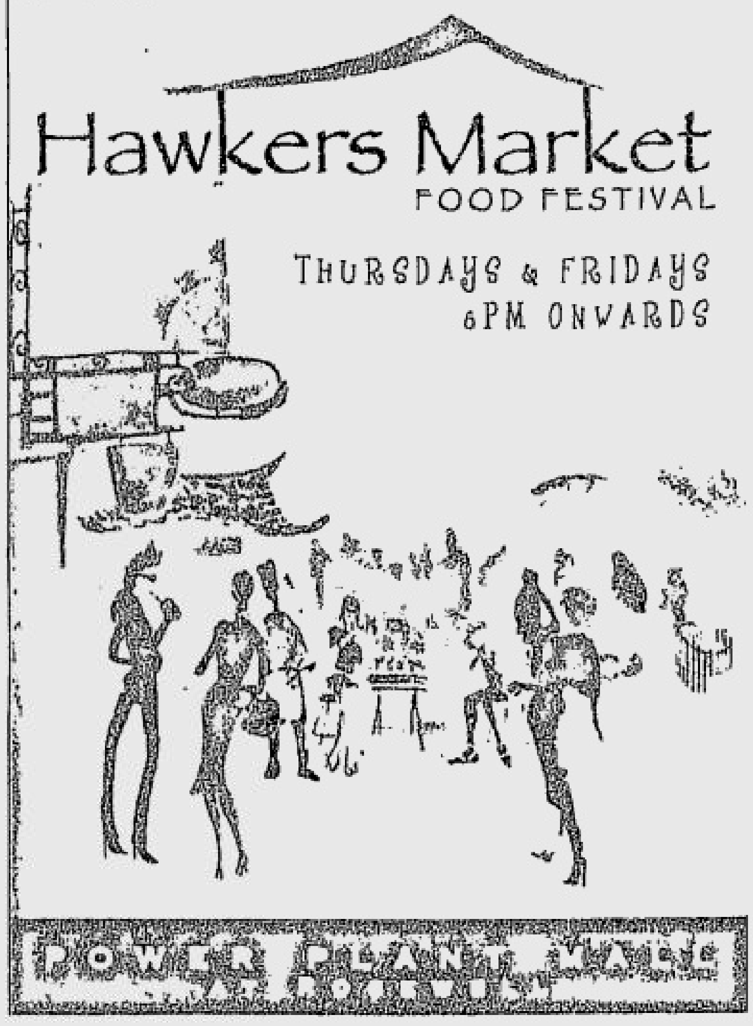

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 11, 2003

NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17.75	17	17.75	255,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	45.5	44.5	44.5	839,800
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	720
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35	35	35	35	8,400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27	27	27	67,100
Philippine National Bank	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	24,200
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	1,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	6,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1650	1650	1650	1650	250
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	360,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1320	1330	1320	1330	4,020
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	26.5	26	26.5	32,000
Diversified Fin. Network	2	2	2	2	18,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	825	825	800	800	85,240
Ipeople Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.042	1,200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.87	2,960,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	820	820	805	815	141,650
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	25,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.25	13.5	185,800
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.25	20	20	407,500
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	209,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	808,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.91	0.93	0.91	0.93	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	70,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17	16.75	16.75	3,901,600
San Miguel Corp. A	55.5	55.5	55	55	19,600
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62	61.5	62	126,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	4,574,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	1,212,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.48	0.48	29,020,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	980,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	830,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	4,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.25	17.25	757,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.06	1.06	1,610,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.29	3,090,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	3,170,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	18,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	52,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.0625	0.0625	300,000
Pryce Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	720,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	16,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	1,300,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	300,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	80,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26.5	26.5	25.5	25.5	196,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series L	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	10,000,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	400	400	400	400	1,750
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	5,112,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	40,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.18	0.18	36,850,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	3,060,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	10,387,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	120,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	505,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7	6.6	6.7	13,926,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	5,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.23	3,620,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.32	11,900,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	90,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.34	780,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	46,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.16	610,000

CURRENCIES

November 11, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.871080139	1.000000	55.336000
Japan	Yen	0.008019	0.009206	0.509400
United Kingdom	Pound	1.456098	1.671600	92.499700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112453	0.129096	7.143700
Switzerland	Franc	0.635686	0.729767	40.382400
Canada	Dollar	0.663428	0.761615	42.144700
Singapore	Dollar	0.502469	0.576834	31.919700
Australia	Dollar	0.624654	0.717103	39.681600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.310618	2.652590	146.783700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.232288	0.266667	14.756300
Brunei	Dollar	0.501024	0.575175	31.827900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021848	0.025082	1.387900
UA E	Dirham	0.237184	0.272287	15.067300
Euro	Euro	1	1.148000	63.525700
ArgentinaPeso	0.306719	0.352113	19.484500	
Brazil	REAL	0.302354	0.347102	19.207200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134522	0.154431	8.545600
India	Rupee	0.019259	0.022109	1.223400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.229262	0.263193	14.564000
Mexico	New Peso	0.079609	0.091391	5.057200
New Zealand	Dollar	0.541649	0.621813	34.408600
Norway	Kroner	0.121867	0.139903	7.741700
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015223	0.017476	0.967100
South Africa	Rand	0.125868	0.144496	7.995800
Korea	Won	0.000742	0.000852	0.047100
Sweden	Kroner	0.111511	0.128015	7.083800
Syria	Pound	0.02074	0.023810	1.317600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025733	0.029542	1.634700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000546	0.000627	0.034700

INTEREST RATES

November 11, 2003
MART 1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 11-Nov-03	MART1 10-Nov-03
1 Month	6.5714	6.5304
3 Months	6.6654	6.6929
6 Months	7.7071	7.775
1 Year	8.4196	8.5232
2 Years	9.2036	9.1804
3 Years	9.9411	9.9089
4 Years	10.2804	10.3071
5 Years	10.6232	10.5867
7 Years	11.2321	11.2161
10 Years	11.4375	11.4054
20 Years	11.7839	11.8071
25 Years	12.2161	12.2393

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

4 firms offer help to sell LBP NPLs

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOUR foreign financial groups have offered their financial expertise to the Land Bank of the Philippines to help it dispose of some P20 billion in bad loans and foreclosed assets to an asset manager.

These foreign groups were identified as Credit Lyonnaise S.A., Ernst & Young, KPMG Laya Mananghaya and PriceWaterhouse Coopers.

The disposal of the P20 billion in non-performing loans would bring down LBP's non-performing loan ratio to a single-digit level from the current level of 16 percent of total loans.

LBP president Margarito Teves added that the move would likewise enhance the bank's profitability and increase its available funds for lending to farmers.

LBP executive vice president Alfonso Cruz said the government financial institution would name its financial advisor within the next two weeks.

Ernst & Young is the financial advisor of the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp., which would soon bid out mortgages lodged with the pension funds.

KPMG and PriceWaterhouse, on the other hand, are acknowledged experts in the accounting field while Credit Lyonnaise is a leader in investment banking.

A well-structured disposal of bad loans would allow the Land-Bank to sell its NPLs to asset managers such as Lehman Brothers, Deutsche Bank and Merill Lynch.

"The financial advisor would put together a structure that would maximize the sale of P15 billion in bad loans and P5 billion in Ropoa (real and other properties owned or acquired). We want a structure that would allow us to get the best price when we sell the bad loans to an SPV," said Teves.

ICTSI profit down 28%

By Elena R. Torrijos

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc., the country's largest private port operator, yesterday reported that consolidated profit in the third quarter fell 28 percent to P98 million from P137 million last year due to higher interest charges from long-term borrowings.

ICTSI said in a statement that it only managed to post a profit of P320 million in the first nine months of the year, far below the P3.6 billion in profit that it registered last year.

The income last year, however, reflected the extraordinary gain of P3.7 billion from the the sale of its holding firm for overseas port projects to a subsidiary of Hutchison Port Holdings Ltd.

ICTSI said group-wide volume and new revenue from a new container terminal have contributed to operational and financial results.

The company said consolidated revenue rose 24 percent to 1.9 billion in the third quarter of this year from the same period last year.

The revenue growth was attributed mainly to the consolidation of P952 million in revenue from the Baltic Container Terminal. ICTSI took over operations of the terminal at the Port of Gdynia in June this year.

Covering the first nine months of this year, revenue grew 33 percent to P5.3 billion from P4 billion in the same period last year.

Group wide volume for the third quarter of the year increased 22 percent to 426,774 twenty-foot equivalent units from 349,128 TEUS, boosted by activity in the BCT.

Court blocks TRO vs Tanduay

THE COURT of Appeals (CA) has barred a Mandaluyong trial court from enforcing a restraining order prohibiting the production and sale of Ginebra Kapitan, the newest gin brand of Tanduay Distillers Inc.

In a two-page resolution dated Nov. 10, 2003, the appellate court likewise prevented Judge Edwin Sorongon of the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court's Branch 214 from further proceeding with the case filed against Tanduay by its rival Ginebra San Miguel Inc. (GSMI), until further orders.

Penned by Associate Justice Andres B. Reyes Jr. of the Court of Appeals' second division, the resolution was concurred in by Associate Justices Buenaventura J. Guerrero and Regalado Maambong.

The CA's TRO gives Tanduay the opportunity to resume production and sale of Ginebra Kapitan.

GSMI, for its part, expressed concern over possible delays in the trial of the P100-million suit it filed against TDI for alleged trademark infringement and unfair competition following the issuance by the CA of the TRO.

GSMI legal counsel Gilbert Reyes of the Poblador, Bautista and Reyes Law Offices said that while "we have the highest respect for the resolution of the CA, we lament apparent efforts by TDI to further delay the case through technicalities."

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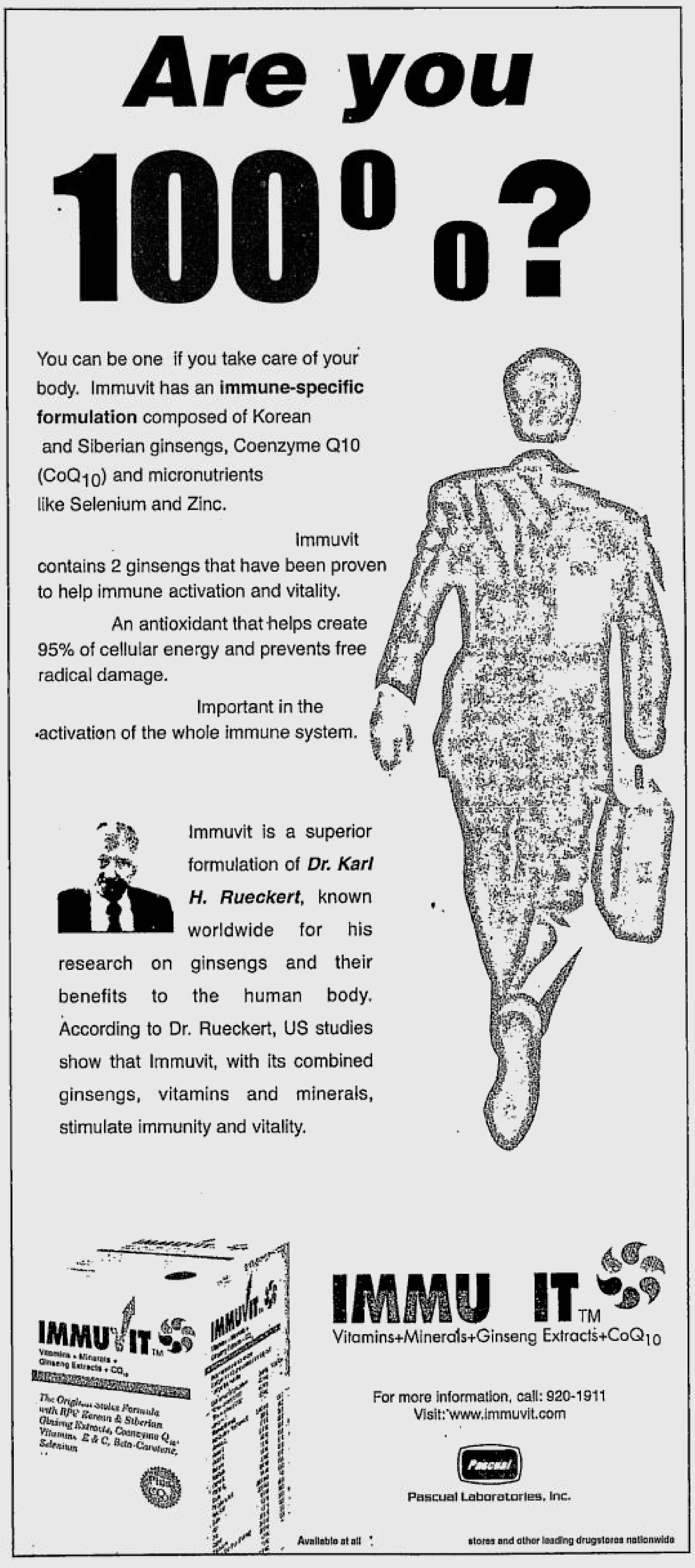
Telephone No. 891-6366

ANNOUNCEMENT

The COGEO 5th Conference on Public Service Workers: Partners of Government for Effective Governance scheduled on November 25-28, 2003, is postponed for next year. However, the COGEO General Assembly of COGEO member-organizations and individual and lifetime members will push through with GSIS President/General Manager Winston F. Garcia as speaker in the consultation portion, on November 26, 2003, starting at 8:00 a.m. at the GSIS Theater, Financial Center, Pasay City.

PDI – November 12, 2003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Messages

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... Its new partnership with Harvard Medical International will definitely be a welcome addition to AMACU and its affiliates' expanding course offerings. Indeed, this year's anniversary is a perfect time to take stock of the progress AMA has made as it looks forward to the challenges of the future. I am confident that AMACU will remain an important partner in educating our people.

Again, happy anniversary and more power to all of you!

GMArroyo

H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Republic

AMA

The presence of our beloved President, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on this day makes our 23rd anniversary celebration truly a meaningful and momentous occasion. Having championed Philippine IT capability tirelessly, we all owe her a debt of gratitude.

... On this eventful occasion, we dedicate our latest international partnership to all our students and their parents... AMA and Harvard Medical International....

Happy anniversary to all of us!

Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V
Chairman Emeritus

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Amable C. Aguiluz IX
President, AMA Education System

From Our Exclusive Partners

Our warmest greetings to the AMA Education Systems Holdings, Inc. (Philippines) on the occasion of its 23rd Foundation Day.

Indeed, your organization has come a long way. You are known for being the pioneer and largest IT-based educational institution in Asia. We take pride in our warm relationship and look forward to working with you to develop high quality medical and nursing education programs in the Philippines.

Robert K. Crone, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

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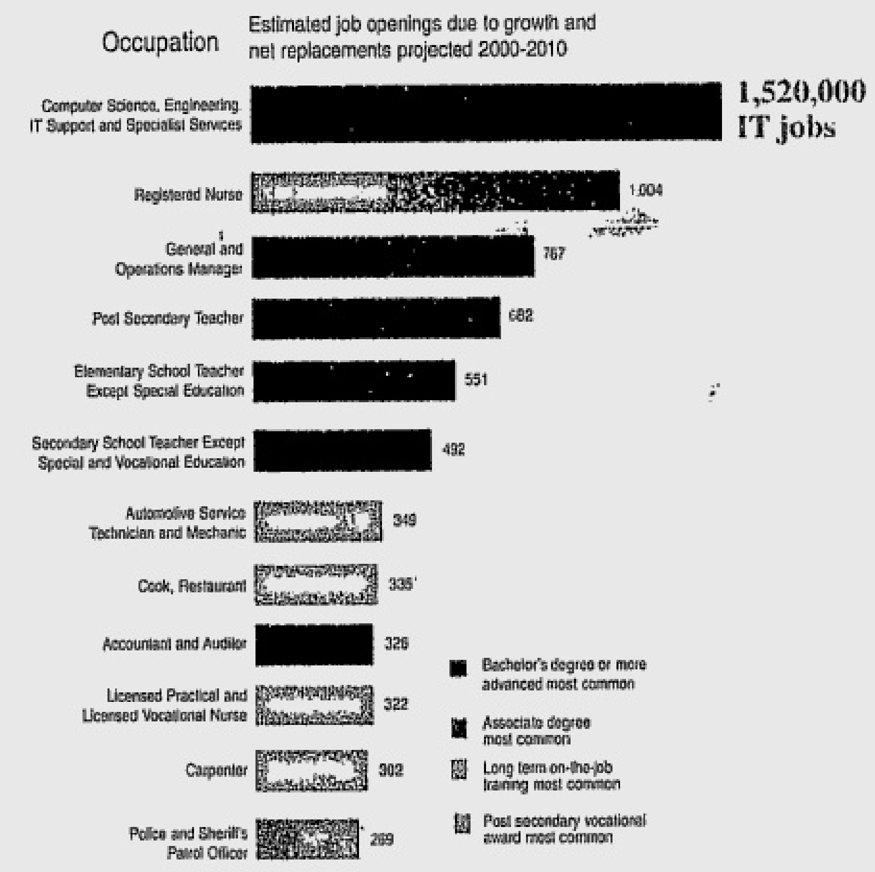
The IT Job Market in the United States

A 10-year U.S. job market outlook of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates there will be substantial demand for IT professionals through 2010. IT job openings are expected to be at 1,520,000 and No. 1 in aggregate ranking of estimated job openings due to growth and replacements.



As it has always been, AMA is in the forefront of serving the expected growth in the demand for IT professionals, particularly in the United States. AMA graduates' world class education gives them the technical edge and assures them of better employment opportunities locally as well as overseas.

PGMA, "IT Champion of the Youth" Promotes Massive Growth of IT Jobs

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whom AMA Chairman Emeritus Amable R. Aguiluz V calls the "IT Champion of the Youth" has almost single-handedly promoted the current massive growth in IT jobs for the Filipino.

In 2000, investments posted in the ICT sector amounted to only 4.69 Billion. When President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over in January of 2001 she focused on IT, chairing the Information Technology and Electronics Commerce Council (ITECC) herself. In 2001 and 2002, because of her international acceptability and the confidence that her leadership brings, foreign companies / capitalists have invested more than P33 Billion in ICT in the Philippines, thus creating more than 80,000 new jobs.

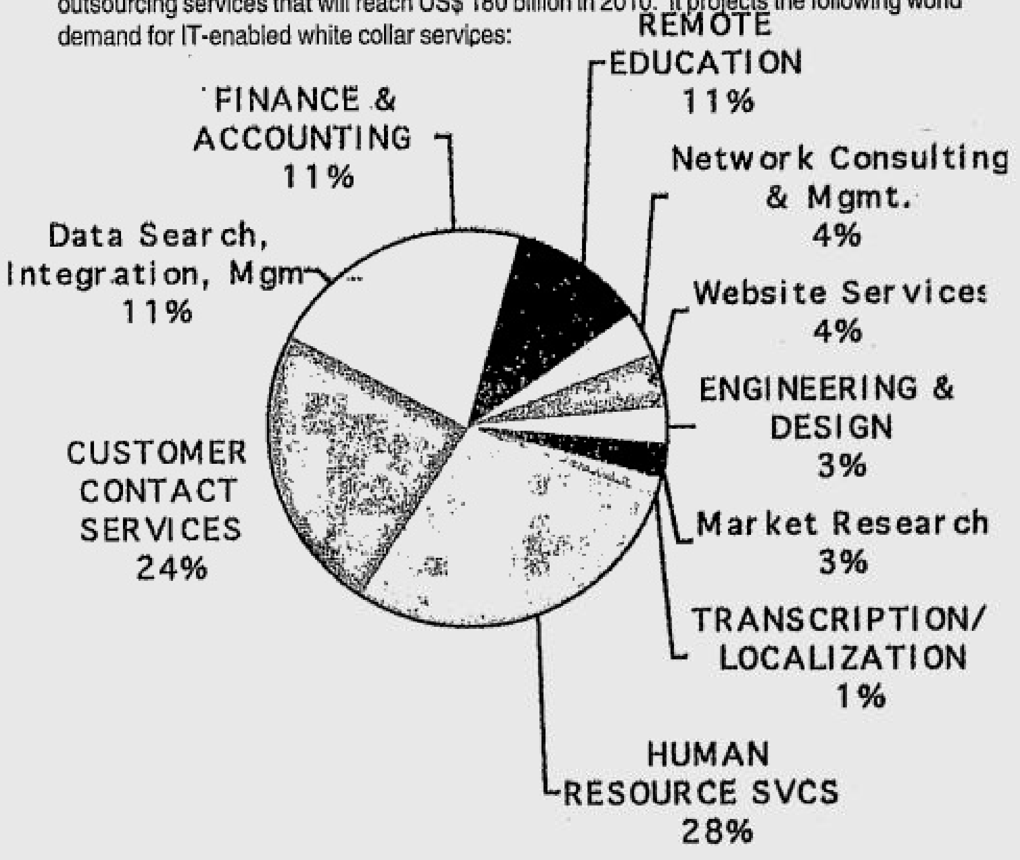
The future looks even better. In ICT-enabled call-center seats alone, estimates see the Philippine job market rising from its current 20,000 seats to 40,000 seats by the end of 2004. And this still has not configured the massive international resurgence of ICT predicted for the year 2007 and beyond. Without doubt, with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's leadership and commitment, IT is back!

ICT Investments and Jobs Created, 2000-2002

Period	Investments		New Jobs Created in ICT
	Amount (in Billion Pesos)	Growth Rate (%)	
2000	4.69	---	---
2001	14.87	217	30.715
2002	18.84	27	49.693

The Asia/Pacific Outsource Services Market

The McKinsey & Co., an investment consultancy firm, projects a bigger demand for outsourcing services that will reach US$ 180 billion in 2010. It projects the following world demand for IT-enabled white collar services:



Given the above figures for the US IT Job Market and the growing Outsource Services Market and the trend for locating in the Philippines, IT jobs will be on the rise both here and abroad.

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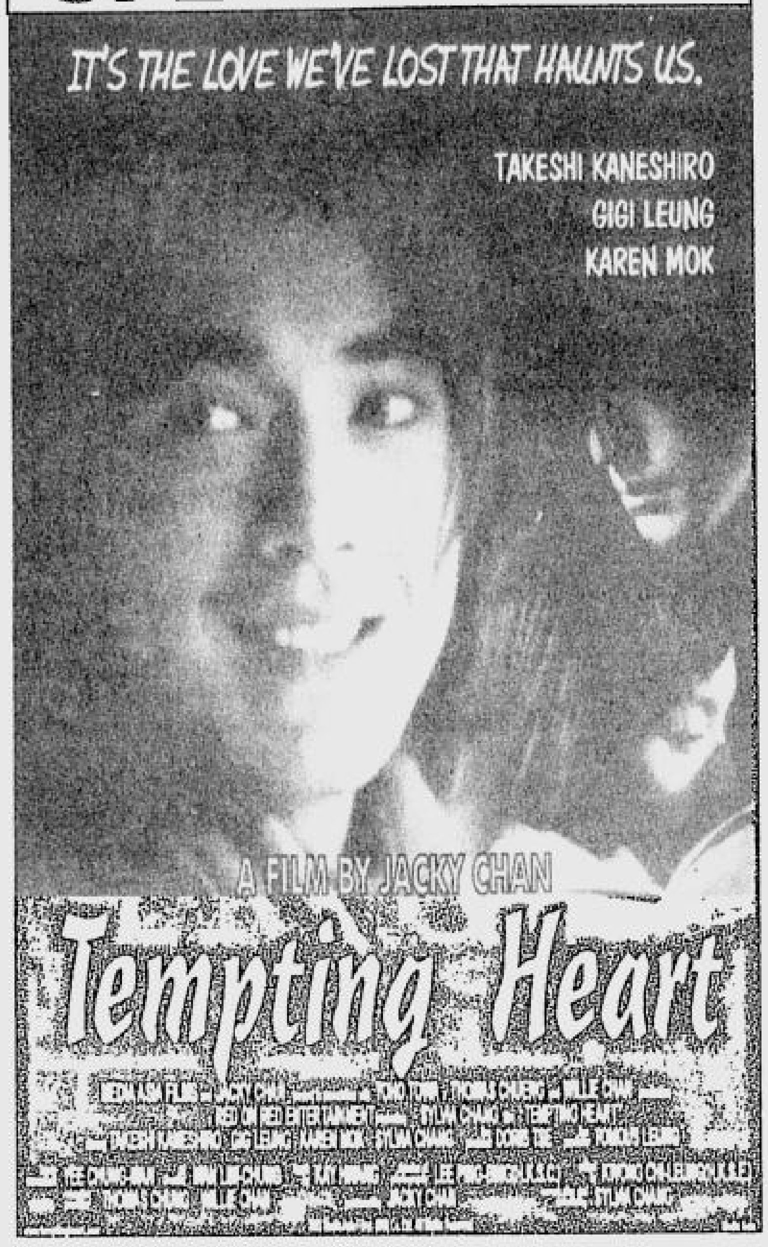

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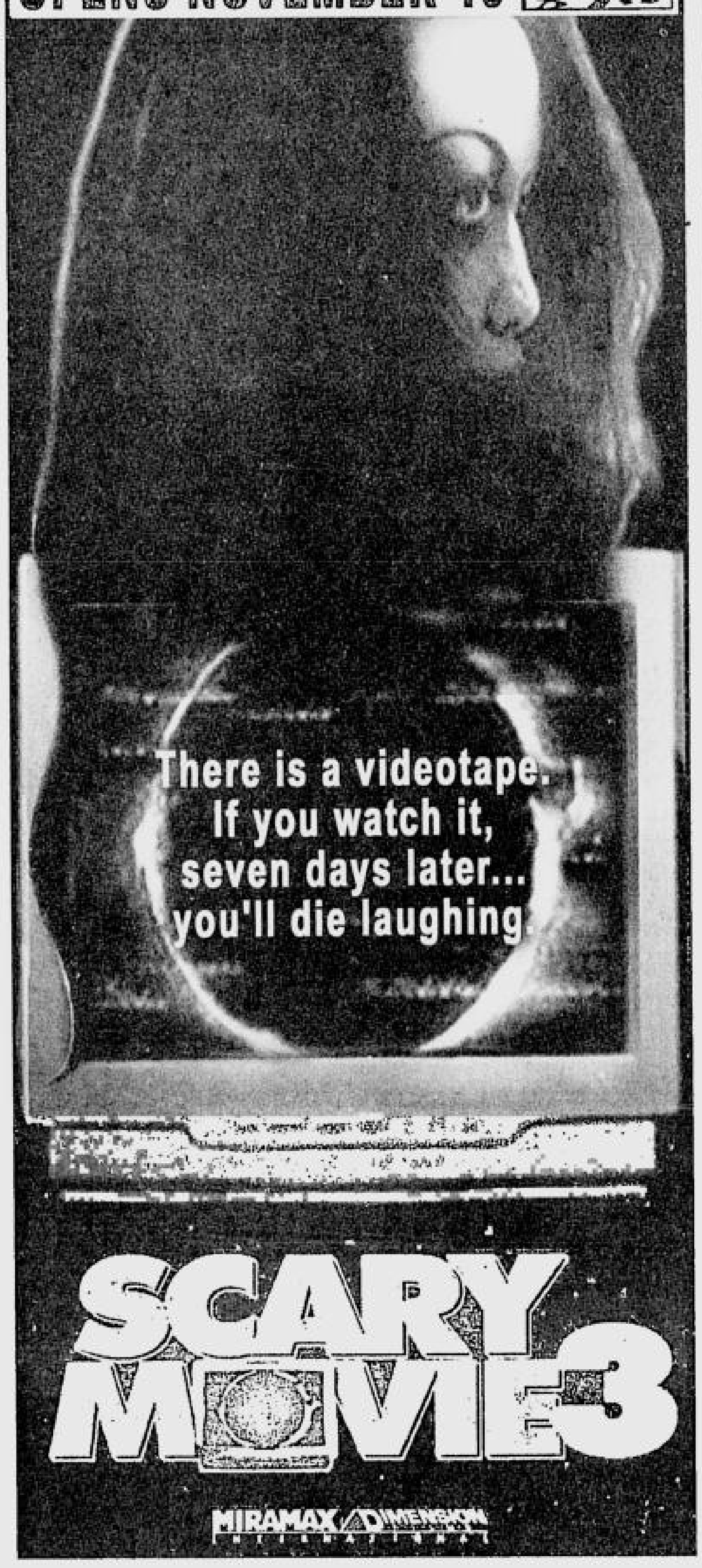

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Ali 4	MATRIX REVOLUTION
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Ali 6	MAPANUKSO
Ali 7	WRONG TURN

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TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MAPANUKSO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
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B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-6	SIYA'Y NAGDADALAGA
CINEMA-7	IDENTITY
CINEMA-8	THE PHONE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATIRX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DARK BLUE
CINEMA-12	WRONG TURN
CINEMA-14	MAPANUKSO
CINEMA-15	MY FIRST ROMANCE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
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(LAS PINAS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
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	5 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN		GUARANTEED SEATS MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 3 00 5 50 8 40 11 30	5 WRONG TURN
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4 RESERVE
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6 MAPANUKSO
7 (DTS) MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
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4 (DOLBY) IDENTITY
5 MAPANUKSO

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2 MAPANUKSO
3 TEPTING HEART
4 WRONG TURN
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2 UNDERWORLD
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1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 (DTS) UNDERWORLD
3 (DOLBY) MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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4 UNDERWORLD

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1 THE PHONE
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3 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
4

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3 (DOLBY) IDENTITY
4 (DTS) MATRIX REVOLUTION

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2 (DTS) IDENTITY
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE

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2 LIBERATED
3 (DTS) MAPANUKSO
4 LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN

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2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS) MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 LIBERATED
5 MAPUPULANG LABI

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1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 MAPUPULANG LABI
3 RESERVE

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1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 IDENTITY
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE

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2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS) MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
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1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 RESERVE

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(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 LIBERATED
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 RESERVE

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1 LIBERATED
2 UP TOWN GIRL
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 IDENTITY

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX) IDENTITY
2 LIBERATED
3 (DTS-ES) MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 UP TOWN GIRL

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2 UP TOWN GIRL
3 (DOLBY) IDENTITY
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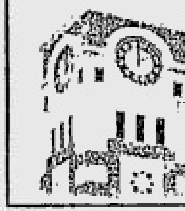

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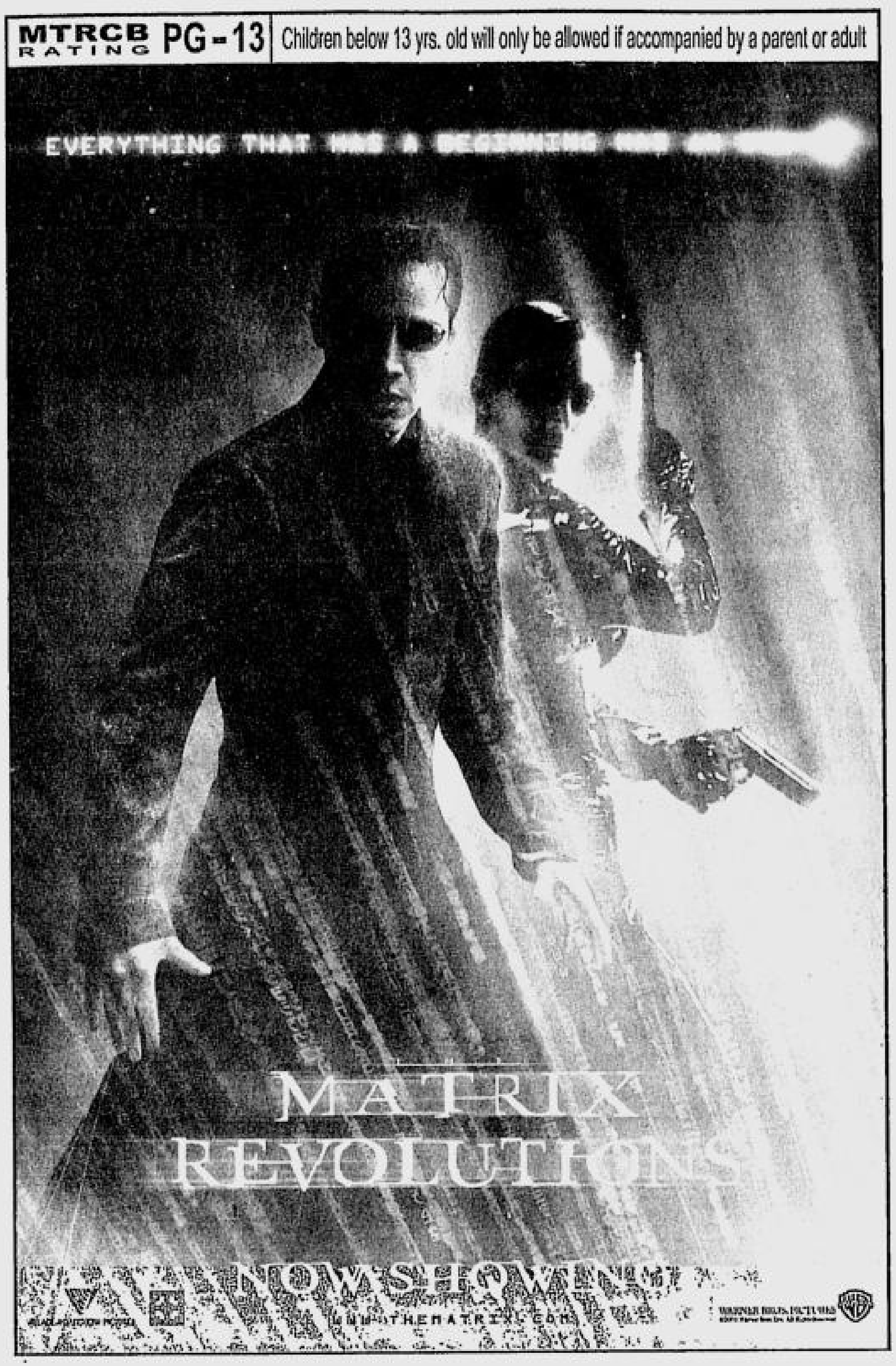
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What Is It That Pulls People Into The Darkness To Be Scared To Death?
Wish mo lang takot ay nasaisip lamang!!
THE WISHER
Starring DREW LACHEY of 98 Degrees
RON SILVER LIANE BALABAN

AYALA CINEMAS

THE ONLY THING WHITE IS THE HOUSE
HAIL TO THE CHIEF OF COMEDY

"CHRIS ROCK rules!
--- Fox News Channel

HEAD *of* STATE

Chris Rock stars as Mays Gilliam, a Washington D.C. neighborhood Alderman, who's about to be red-lined out of his job. But after the untimely death of the party frontrunner, Gilliam is plucked from obscurity and thrust into the limelight as his party's nominee -- for President of the United States.

OPENS TODAY EXCLUSIVELY AT ALABANG TOWN CENTER CINEMAS

"HILARIOUS!"
--- Washington Post

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

united international pictures VIVA

2ND "HUAG KANG PIPIKIT" WEEK!

MTRCB RATING ▷ R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted

SET YOURSELF FREE!

DARING, FUNNY & WELL MADE.
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DIANA ZUBIRI FRANCINE PRIETO
CHRISTIAN VAZQUEZ RODEL VELAYO
TUESDAY VARGAS WINSTON ELIZALDE REGGIE CURLEY

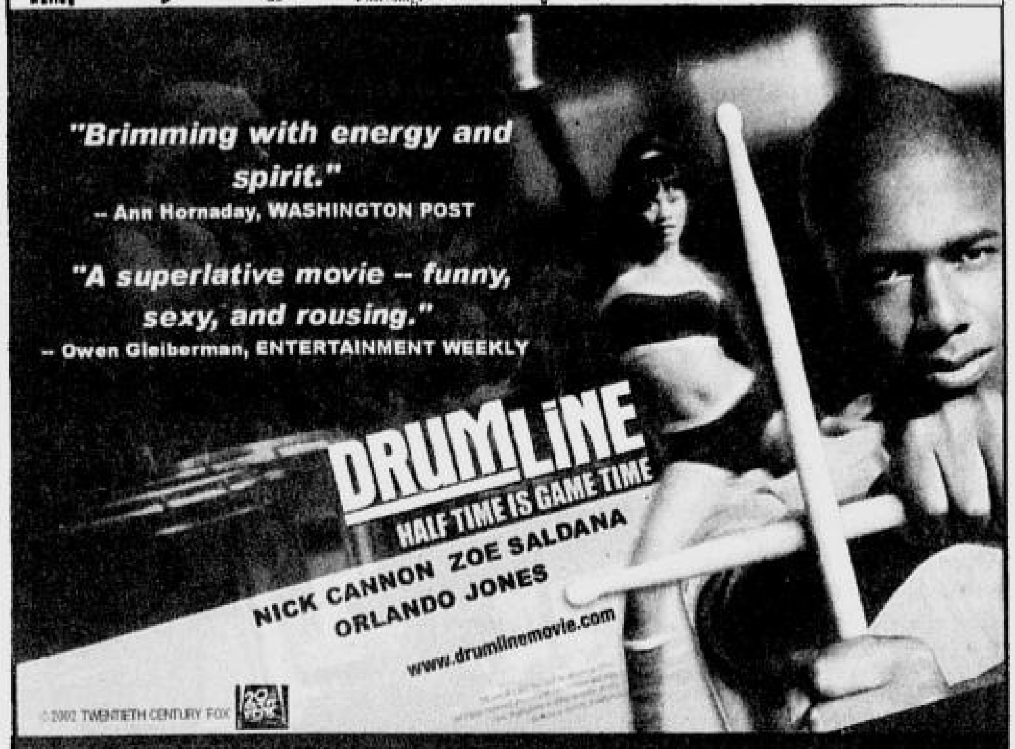
LiBeRaTed

SEIKO Films presentation directed by MAC C. ALEJANDRE

AYALA CINEMAS

OPENS TODAY AT AYALA CINEMAS

MTRCB Rating ▷ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED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-- Ann Hornaday, WASHINGTON POST
"A superlative movie -- funny, sexy, and rousing."
-- Owen Gleiberman, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
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NICK CANNON ZOE SALDANA
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OPENS TODAY EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS

MTRCB Rating ▷ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

Monsoon Wedding

"★★★★ !"

NEW YORK POST SAN FRANSISCO CHRONICLE DETROIT NEWS

"TWO THUMBS WAY UP"
- ROGER EBERT & RICHARD ROEPER, EBERT & ROEPER

You are invited to join the festivities as one colorful & eclectic family gathers from all over the world for a traditional wedding - a non-stop 4 day celebration as unpredictable as the monsoon season itself Anything goes when love, lust, hope & happiness take them by storm & bring them ever closer With this family, when it rains, it pours

From award winning director Mira Nair (Salaam, Bombay, Mississippi Masala The Perez Family, & Kama Sutra: A Tale Love) Monsoon Wedding is a fun, heartwarming tribute to family that Carey Rickey of the Philadelphia Inquirer calls "a banquet of heart."

COFFEE CLUB DISCUSSION ON "MONSOON WEDDING TONIGHT at 7pm.
For inquiries, contact 752-7866 or 752-7872.

NOKIA Solar FILMS INC. INQUIRER

OPENS TODAY EXCLUSIVELY AT ArtFilm

AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

DIANE LANE

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

Life offers you a thousand chances

... all you have to do is take one.

"A Romantic Winner!"
--- E! Online

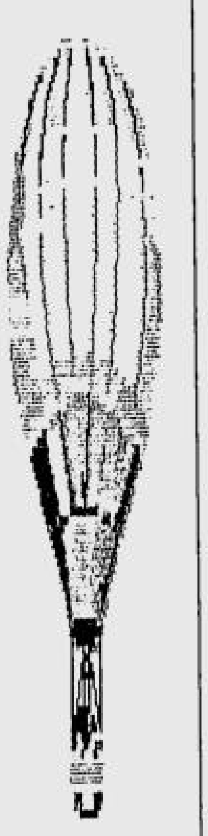
"Two Thumbs Up!"
--- Ebert & Roeper

"Lane has once again given an Academy Award - worthy performance!"
--- Paul Clinton, CNN

35 year-old writer Frances Mayes perfect life takes an unexpected detour. Her recent divorce leaves her with writer's block and her best friend suggests 10 days in Tuscany. On a whim, Frances buys a villa there to start fresh. As she flings herself into her new life, she finds new friends and new romances. Can this be what she dreamed of? Will love last under the Tuscan sun?

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

COLUMBIA PICTURES



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UNDP

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contracting of Consulting Services for PHI/00/G33 – Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy in the Philippines (CBRED) Project

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites local consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the various subcontracts of the project "UNDP-GEF-DOE PHI/01/G33-Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy in the Philippines (CBRED) Project".

The CBRED Project aims to reduce the annual growth rate of greenhouse gas emissions by replacing part of the current fossil fuel use in the Philippines through the removal of major barriers to renewable energy (RE) that will lead to the development and widespread utilization of renewable energy systems / applications. Specific objectives of the project includes: (1) strengthening the capacity of relevant Government of the Philippines (GOP) agencies to formulate, enact, and implement sound new and renewable energy (NRE) policies; (2) providing NRE information for targeted audiences to build markets; (3) increasing coordination among organization concerned with NRE; (4) assisting market penetration of NRE in remote off-grid communities; and (5) improving quality of NRE technologies and systems.

The project is subdivided into six (6) components, namely: (1) Policy, Planning, and Institutional Capacity Building, (2) Market Service Institutionalisation, (3) Information and Promotion Services, (4) RE Initiatives Delivery and Financing Mechanisms, (5) Training Program, and (6) RE Technology Support.

To be able to attain said objectives, the project requires the services of subcontractors who shall undertake each of the following components:

A. Contract 1 – RE Initiatives Delivery and Financing Mechanisms

Under this component, the project is establishing three pilot funds, to support NRE projects that promote and apply innovative strategies and delivery mechanisms.

Scope of work of the subcontractor shall be to design the mechanics and develop the work plan for each of the three (3) financing programs, to include: (1) Fund Program Mechanics; (2) Fund Management Requirements; (3) Financing Assistance Services; (4) Monitoring and Evaluation.

B. Contract 2 – MSC Business Planning and Development

The CBRED project is establishing a Market Service Center (MSC) to serve as the focal point in the country for RE market development, by providing a link between investors/stakeholders and government institutions, particularly, the DOE, to harmonize expectations and mutual support.

The scope of work of the subcontractor will involve the conduct of three (3) major activities: (1) Development of the MSC Business Plan; (2) Assistance in the Operationalization of the MSC; (3) Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Program for the MSC Operation.

C. Contract 3 – NRE Resource Inventory

The immediate objectives of this component are: (1) to establish a national RE database containing resource data in forms that are readily accessible and useful to target clients such as potential private investors and policy makers; and (2) to implement activities that will enhance awareness and appreciation of stakeholders, including energy consumers, on the various RE-based products and services as well as their environmental and socio-economic benefits. Thus, this component involves the establishment of a National Renewable Energy Database-keepers Committee which will integrate and consolidate RE-related information and data for use of stakeholders.

The contractor is expected to undertake the following activities:

1. Phase I - Prioritization of Resource Data
2. Phase II - Consolidation of Resource Data
3. Phase III – Identification of Resource Data Gaps
4. Phase IV - Design and Develoment of Monitoring / Management Program

D. Contract 4 – RE Database and Data Exchange

The immediate objectives of this component are: (i) to establish a national RE database containing resource data in forms that are readily accessible and useful to target clients such as potential private investors and policy makers; and (ii) to implement activities that will enhance awareness and appreciation of stakeholders, including energy consumers, on the various RE-based products and services as well as their environmental and socio-economic benefits.

To implement this component, the RE Database and Data Exchange Subcontract shall:

1. Design and develop an institutional mechanism for the establishment of a National RE database system.
2. Enhance the CBRED websites such as those of REMD, MSC, and DOE taking into consideration, among others, the various project activities and activity / project updates.
3. Initiate the development of a national RE Database, which consolidates all possible information coming from different RE stakeholders.
4. Develop a methodology for the establishment of an integrated RE Informaiton Exchange Service System, which aims to provide information services to RE clienteles.

Bidders may submit proposal for any one, any combination, or all of the above-mentioned contracts.
For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **PhP 500.00 for each Contract** from the following address :

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 892 0611 loc. 275
Fax No. (632) 816-4061 / 893-9598
Email Address : bc_admin.ph@undp.org

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested participants starting **13 November 2003 to 18 November 2003 only**. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, dates and other schedules for the pre-bid conference and opening of bid envelopes, as well as further details on the scope of services required.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Department of Energy. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ETHELIND B. CAPUNO
Manager, DSSC

(PDI – November 12, 2003)

Century Properties Management Inc.

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BEST PROPERTY DEALS

PUBLIC AUCTION OF ACQUIRED ASSETS

2:00 pm THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20th, 2003
GROUND FLOOR, EXPORTBANK PLAZA, CORNER OF EXPORTBANK DRIVE
AND CHINO ROCES AVE., MAKATI CITY, METRO MANILA

ANTIPOLO

Property No. 1 Lot Only LA: 216 sq.m.
B3/L3 Cascades Subd., Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,015,200

P-No. 2 - Lot Only LA: 649 sq.m.
B5/L17 Cottonwood Heights Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 3,050,300

P-No. 3 Lot Only LA: 303 sq.m.
B10 L3 Cottonwood Heights Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,424,100

P-No. 4 Lot Only LA: 283 sq.m.
B14/L14 Cottonwood Heights Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,330,100

P-No. 5 Lot Only LA: 219 sq.m.
B14/L13 Cottonwood Heights Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,029,300

P-No. 6 Lot Only LA: 335 sq.m.
B1/L20 Foliage Hills Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,574,500

P-No. 7 Lot Only LA: 267 sq.m.
B3/L1 Foliage Hills Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,254,900

P-No. 8 Lot Only LA: 252 sq.m.
L2 Psd 04-142064 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 882,000

P-No. 9 Lot Only LA: 226 sq.m.
B14/L20 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 791,000

P-No. 10 - Lot Only LA: 161 sq.m.
B7/L28 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 563,500

P-No. 11 - Lot Only LA: 191 sq.m.
B7 L39 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 668,500

P-No. 12 Lot Only LA: 240 sq.m.
B8 L21 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 840,000

P-No. 13 - Lot Only LA: 293 sq.m.
B1/L33 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,025,500

P-No. 14 - Lot Only LA: 237 sq.m.
B4 L32 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 829,500

P-No. 15 Lot Only LA: 200 sq.m.
B1/L36 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 700,000

P-No. 16 Lot Only LA: 173 sq.m.
B4 L33 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 605,500

P-No. 17 - Lot Only LA: 167 sq.m.
B1 L34 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 584,500

P-No. 18 - Lot Only LA: 186 sq.m.
B9 L10 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 651,000

P-No. 19 Lot Only LA: 196 sq.m.
B9 L14 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 686,000

P-No. 20 Lot Only LA: 164 sq.m.
B2 L6 Maia Alta, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 574,000

P-No. 21 Lot Only LA: 168 sq.m.
B2 L8 Maia Alta, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 588,000

P-No. 22 Lot Only LA: 162 sq.m.
B2 L5 Maia Alta, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 567,000

CALOOCAN

P-No. 23 Lot Only LA: 87 sq.m.
B6/L9 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 261,000

P-No. 24 – Lot Only LA: 89 sq.m.
B6/L10 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 267,000

P-No. 25 – Lot Only LA: 92 sq.m.
B6 L11 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 276,000

P-No. 26 Lot Only LA: 169 sq.m.
B7/L21 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 507,000

P-No. 27 - Lot Only LA: 112 sq.m.
B7/L22 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 336,000

P-No. 28 – Lot Only LA: 82 sq.m.
B7/L23 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 246,000

P-No. 29 Lot Only LA: 129 sq.m.
B7/L24 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 387,000

P-No. 30 - Lot Only LA: 166 sq.m.
B2/L25 Residenza 2 Subd., Deparo Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 913,000

CAVITE (BACOOR)

P-No. 31 Lot Only LA: 304 sq.m.
B6 L1 Lessinia de Citta Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,368,000

P.No. 32 - Lot Only LA: 244 sq.m.
B9 L24 Lessinia de Citta Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,098,000

P/No. 33 – Lot Only LA: 163 sq.m.
B1/L24 Roma de Cita Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 733,500

P/No. 34 Lot Only LA: 148 sq.m.
B1/L19 Roma de Cita Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 666,000

P/No. 35 Lot Only LA: 217 sq.m.
B1/L17 Venezia de Cita Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 976,500

P-No. 36 Lot Only LA: 209 sq.m.
B7 L33 Verona de Cita Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 940,500

P-No. 37 Lot Only LA: 139 sq.m.
B7/L34 Verona de Cita Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 625,500

CAVITE (DASMARINAS)

P-No. 38 Lot Only LA: 605 sq.m.
B11/L10 Island Park Subd., Phase 1, Brgy Paliparan
Minimum Bid Price: Php 3,932,500

P-No. 39 Lot Only LA: 340 sq.m.
B1 L9 Island Park Subd., Phase 1, Brgy Paliparan
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,210,000

LAGUNA (SAN PEDRO)

P-No. 40 - Lot Only LA: 219 sq.m.
B11/L1 La Marea 1 Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,029,300

P-No. 41 Lot Only LA: 202 sq.m.
B11/L2 La Marea 1 Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 949,400

P-No. 42 Lot Only LA: 185 sq.m.
B14/L1 La Marea 1 Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 869,500

P-No. 43- Lot Only LA: 264 sq.m.
B1/L41 La Marea Hills Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,240,800

P-No. 44 Lot Only LA: 283 sq.m.
B9 L4 Trails of La Marea Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,330,100

LAGUNA (STA. ROSA)

P-No. 45 Lot Only LA: 578 sq.m.
B7/L17 Belle Reve Subd., Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 3,468,000

P-No. 46 Lot Only LA: 840 sq.m.
B11/L19 Belle Reve Subd., Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price Php 5,040,000

P-No. 47 - Lot Only LA: 681 sq.m.
B11/L71 Belle Reve Subd., Brgy Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price Php 4,086,000

P-No. 48 Lot Only LA: 720 sq.m.
L2079-A-3-D-3-C-4 Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price Php 3,600,000

P-No. 49- Lot Only LA: 216 sq.m.
B16/L9 La Residencia De Santa Rosa, Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,188,000

P-No. 50 – Lot Only LA: 182 sq.m.
B17/L27 La Residencia De Santa Rosa, Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price Php 1,001,000

LAS PINAS

P-No. 51 Lot Only LA: 420 sq.m.
B26 L38 Cul De Sac, Lourdes Atienza St., BF Resort Village
Minimum Bid Price Php 1,890,000

MAKATI

P-No. 52 Commercial Condo. FA: 66.40 sq.m.
Unit 2310 Cityland 10 Condominium, H. V. dela Costa St
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,992,000

P-No. 53 Commercial Condo. FA: 81.28 sq.m.
Unit 2311 Cityland 10 Condominium, H. V. dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price. Php 2,438,400

P-No. 54 – Residential Condo. FA: 69.65 sq.m.
Unit 417 Makati Terraces Condo., Davila St
Minimum Bid Price Php 1,393,000

PARANAQUE

P-No. 55 House & Lot LA: 280 sq.m./ FA: 200 sq.m.
No. 22 Canton St., BF Executive Village
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,960,000

QUEZON CITY

P-No. 56 Lot Only LA: 243 sq.m.
B2 L25 La Brea Subd., Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,701,000

P-No. 57- Lot Only LA: 276 sq.m.
B4 L35 La Brea Subd., Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,932,000

P-No. 58 Lot Only LA: 306 sq.m.
B1 L1 La Brea Subd., Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,142,000

P-No. 59 House & Lot LA: 601 sq.m./ FA: 106 sq.m.
No. 47 Pallmall St., East Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,404,000

P-No. 60 Residential Condo. FA: 66.15 sq.m.
Unit 5D Timog Condo. Centre Apts., Panay Ave.
Minimum Bid Price Php 992,250

RIZAL (TAYTAY)

P-No. 61 Lot Only LA: 96.50 sq.m.
B7A/L20B Palmera Homes 3, Bgy. Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: Php 193,000

P-No. 62 - Lot Only LA: 125 sq.m.
B6/L13 Palmera Homes 3, Bgy. Dolores
Minimum Bid Price Php 250,000

RIZAL (TERESA)

P-No. 63 - Lot Only LA: 80 sq.m.
B16/L13 La Hacienda Subd
Minimum Bid Price: Php 240,000

P-No. 64 Lot Only LA: 63 sq.m.
B16/L14 La Hacienda Subd
Minimum Bid Price: Php 189,000

P-No. 65 Lot Only LA: 63 sq.m.
B16 L15 La Hacienda Subd
Minimum Bid Price: Php 189,000

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Division of Kalinga

Invitation for Bids (IFB)
IFB No. KAL-002SBP-2003

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders classified by IAC and PCAB at least Small B for General Building and from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov. 1987).*
2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following proposed Bid Packages:

Package No. KAL-01/04-020A	Construction of One unit – One (1) Classroom TEEP School Building @ Pasil CS/ Repair of One unit – Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Balenciago ES/Construction of One unit – Two (2) Classrooms TEEP School Building @ Balenciago Sur PS all in the Municipality of Pasil.
Package No. KAL-01/04-20B	Repair of One unit – Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Panitikian ES/ Construction of One unit – One (1) Classroom TEEP School Building @ Gawa-an ES/Repair of One unit – Four (4) Classrooms School Building @ Dao-angan ES all in the Municipality of Balbalan, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL-02/03/09-022A	Construction of One unit – Two (2) Classrooms TEEP School Building @ Tulgao West PS in the Municipality of Tinglayan; Repair of One unit – Two (2) Classrooms School Building @ Lubuagan CS all in the Municipality of Lubuagan
Package No. KAL-02/05/09-022B	Construction of One unit – Two (2) Classrooms TEEP School Building @ Asibanglan ES/Construction of One unit – One (1) Classroom TEEP School Building @ Lutab PS/Construction of One unit – One (1) Classroom TEEP School Building @ Ba-ay ES all in the Municipality of Pinukpuk, Kalinga

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at TEEP DPISU Office with address at DepEd Division Office of Kalinga, Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga for a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) for each set. A pre-bidding conference will be held at the same address on November 20, 2003 at 9:00 A.M. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address:
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, TEEP DPISU Office, Department of Education – Division Office of Kalinga, Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga on or before 2:00 P.M. of November 26, 2003, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) EDMUND P. COMAAD, Ed.D.
Schools Division Superintendent

(PDI – November 12, 2003)

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation
Visayas-Operation and Maintenance
Banilad Power Complex Nasipit, Talamban, C.C.
Tel No 346-3427 346-9449

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANS-VIS-2003-[illegible]

Pre-bid Conference November 26, 2003 @ 2:00 PM at the District 2 Office
Bidding Dates December 4, 2003 @ 2:00 PM at the District 2 Office

The National Transmission Corporation, Administration Division-Visayas invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on (pls. see above schedule) to be opened publicly at Transco Bidding Room, Banilad Power Complex, Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City for the following requirements:

PR NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY./UM	APPROVED BUDGET (ABC) (in pesos)
PTOM-03-087	Angle bars, 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" x 1/4" x 20', ASTM A36	4,100 lengths	3,198,000.00

All Bids should be within the Approved Budget of Contract to be Bid in order to qualify.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available starting November 12, 2003, at the Materials Management Services Section from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 200.00/ schedule and presentation of TIN/Supplier's Number (DCE). Last day of issuance of bidding documents will be on November 26, 2003.

For further inquiries please contact Mr. J.D. Rosell thru telephone number (032) 346-9449 or fax number (032) 346-3427.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order 40 and as amended by Republic Act 9184.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any defects therein and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of BAC's action.

(Sgd.) OCTAVIO G. BRIONES
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – November 12 & 19, 2003)

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Jazz greats Courtney Pine and Cameron Pierre at The Podium

JAZZ ENTHUSIASTS will have a wonderful opportunity to see world acclaimed UK saxophonist Courtney Pine and leading jazz guitarist Cameron Pierre when they make a stop at The Podium today, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. as part of their Asian tour to promote their new albums.

A joint initiative of the British Council and The Podium, in cooperation with Smart Communications and Astroplus, the event includes an exclusive autograph signing session in line with their new releases. Courtney Pine's latest album "Devotion" is out on Destin-E Records, while Cameron Pierre's "The Other Side of Nottinghill" is released by Candid Records Philippines. Mallgoers can then enjoy the music of Cameron Pierre as he performs in concert also in the Activity Area.

Pine, who was awarded the OBE in 2000 for his services to jazz, has continued his inspirational role at the forefront of UK Jazz in many ways. He still presents his regular high rating Radio 2 slot "Jazz Crusade", which has also featured musicians from all genres, from Radiohead to Herbie Hancock. As the trailblazer for black musicians in the UK jazz scene, he will also be presenting "UK Black", a major new series, which examines the black musical heritage of the country.

A multiple award winner, Courtney Pine is undoubtedly a UK artist of international renown. He is one of the few UK artists to have a serious US presence, especially in the Billboards charts. Courtney Pine is also regularly involved in other projects for film and TV—his latest soundtrack was for the recent BBC documentary "Nelson Mandela: The Living Legend". Following "Devotion", his next project is an animated short film he has written and produced due for release next year.

Pierre, on the other hand, is one of Britain's most talented R&B and jazz guitarists. Also Pine's lead guitarist, Cameron is known for his strong, dark, strident sound. Longtime friend Pine describes it as dark velvet, an immediately accessible Creole of soul, jazz, and Caribbean style drawn from his upbringing in the Dominican Republic.

The event is a joint initiative of the British Council and The Podium, in cooperation with Astroplus, Smart Communications, Jam 88.3 and Wave 89.1.

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

In Loving Memory on the 11th Death Anniversary of

LT. ROY QUINTIN S. ALCUDIA, JR.

Masses offered at the following Churches:

Libingan ng Bayani	5:30 PM
St. Michael Chaplaincy, Global City	6:30 AM
St. Michael, Fort Bonifacio	6:30 AM
Santuario San Antonio, Forbes	12:15 PM
Alimodian Parish, Iloilo	6:00 AM
Quimbal Parish, Iloilo	5:00 PM

Please pray for his eternal repose in the house of the Lord.

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EMERENCIANA DE VILLA LECAROZ

"Menchu"

San Jose, California and San Juan, Batangas

Passed away on October 28, 2003 in her home in Belmont, California. Her cremated remains will arrive in Manila on Nov. 17, 2003. Interment will be in San Juan, Batangas at a later date.

She is survived by her parents, **Ex-Mayor Vicente M. Lecaroz** and **Patria de Villa Lecaroz**, her daughters **Monique, Nisa** and **Vissia**, the children's father, **Raul Rivero**, her brothers and sisters, in-laws, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Relatives and friends are invited to a memorial prayer service on Monday, November 17, 2003, 6 p.m. at 15 Banaba Road, South Forbes Park, Makati City.

In Loving Memory
of our beloved

Osmundo "Dody" O. Carlos

February 12, 1935 - November 12, 2002

On the occasion of our beloved Dody's first death anniversary, we would like to request all those whose lives he has touched to take a moment to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and to remember fond and cherished memories of him.

We would also like to express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all who condoled with us in the hour of our bereavement. For all that you have done to condole our hearts, we are truly grateful.

Linda
Nato, Lindy and Ina
Dionard, Bebeth, Samuel and Eliana
Abet, Corina, Alynna, Miguel, Sabrina and Juliana (†)
Junby and Via

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE OF THANKS

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

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So Fondly Remembered...
So Truly Missed...

In Memory
of a devoted husband, a loving father and grandfather, a dedicated friend,

LUIS I. SIONGCO, SR.

on the 1st Anniversary of his Rebirth to Eternal Life
(November 12, 2003)

His wife **Daling**; children **Tessie, Luz & Ador, Cora & Manny, Mayen, Vicky & Zaldy, Ellen, Joy & Vina, Gina & Raymond**; grandchildren **Michelle, Michael, Karen & Amado, Mark, Allan, Zoila, Via, Zierwin, Jericho** request his relatives and friends to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Masses will be offered at the following:

Nov. 9, 2003
La Purisima Chapel ..... 8:30 am
St. Martin de Porres ..... 7 pm
(Scarborough, Canada)
Nov. 12, 2003
Monasterio de Sta. Clara ..... 6 am
Adoration Convent of Divine Mercy . 6 am
Our Lady of Grace Parish ..... 6 pm
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine ..... 6 pm
Nat'l Shrine of Divine Mercy ..... 6 pm
St. Isaac Jogues (Pickering, Canada) ... 7 pm
St. Martin de Porres ..... 7 pm
(Scarborough, Canada)
Nov. 14, 2003
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag ..... 7 am

Joaquina "Nitang" Ortega Vda. De Orros

Joined her Creator
*and her husband, **Justo "Titoy", Sr.***
on November 8, 2003 at the age of 96 years old.

Her bereaved children, **Tuting** and **Ligaya Israel**,
Tito and **Josie Abrogar**,
Quinit and **Carmen Hernandez**,
Charo and **Boy Jalandoni**,
Remy and **Tony Sityar**,
Manoling and **Martha Moreno**.

Grandchildren, **Camille** and **Bernie**,
Eduard and **Myra**, **Justito** and **Dina**,
James and **Jennie**, **Maricar** and **Dong**,
Yvette and **Winston**, **Jack** and **Virgie**,
John and **Maritz**, **Justin**, **Jay** and **Raquel**, **Ernestine**,
Joanna, **Jun-Jun**, **Giselle**, **Nonis** and **Allan**,
Kin-Kin, and **Maricris**, and her
22 great grandchildren, request the faithful
to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the residence
of the Philippine Ambassador to Mexico,
His Excellency Justo O. Orros, Jr.
at the City of San Fernando, La Union.

Holy Mass will be said at the St. William's Cathedral
on November 15, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.
Interment will follow at the City Cemetery.

*"Whether young or old, it hurts as much to lose a loved one. To the last of the second generation, one of the eleven children of the first Civil Governor of La Union, **Joaquin Ortega** and **Francisca Lacsamana**,*

REST IN PEACE."

JUSTICE SOCORRO TIRONA LIWAG

Widow of the late **Col. Jose Jacinto Liwag**

(Ret. Justice – Court of Appeals
Ret. Judge – RTC Makati & Caloocan)

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 9, 2003.

Her children and grandchildren:

Marie & Mike Garrido, Alex, Marga & Junior
Jay & Jenky Liwag, Justin.

Her siblings and in-laws:

Tomas (†) & Lony (†) Tirona, Eliseo & Estelita Tirona, Rosario & Ike (†) Joaquin, Jose (†) & Ofelia Tirona, Angel Liwag, Ester & Joe Sepulveda, Mike Liwag.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on November 13, 2003 (Thursday) at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY
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Cable Address: "Philcoa" P.O. Box 3386, Manila, TIN # 000724616

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bidding the property described below.

DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF PROPERTY
17,332 Square Meters with improvements under TCT No. 20592 of the Registry of Deeds for San Pablo City	Barangay San Ignacio, San Pablo City, Province of Laguna

Bid documents shall be available upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) at the Office of the Secretariat, PCA Real Property Disposal and Appraisal Committee, 2nd Floor PCA R & D Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City from **November 17-21, 2003.**

Sealed bid proposals shall be submitted and dropped at the Bid Box located at the Office of the Secretariat before the scheduled opening of bids on **November 24, 2003** at 2:00 p.m.

Sealed bid proposals shall be opened in the presence of the participating bidders at the Executive Lounge, 8th Floor R & D Building, Diliman, Quezon City.

The sale of the property shall be on "As is, Where is" basis.

PCA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any defect or informality therein and to accept such bid proposals considered advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOSEFEL P. GRAGEDA**
Acting Chairman
PCA Real Property Disposal & Appraisal Commitee

(PDI - Nov. 12, 13 & 14, 2003)

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South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. TRANSCO 2003-012A

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) wishes to invite interested parties who are qualified to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 08, 2003; 10:00 AM

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET
A1	1 UNIT	INFRARED VISION PORTABLE CAMERA	3D3003-174	P 3,468,750.00

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held on November 25, 2003; 2:00 PM at SLT bidding Room for Schedule A1.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting November 12, 2003. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until the specified date and time of bidding above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS or a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) G.R. LISTANO
CHAIRMAN-BAC
SL O & M

(PDI–November 12, 2003)

Book marketing executive promotes education, literacy

By Candy G. Villanueva

BOOKWORMS are no longer confined to the quiet halls of the library. If books are your passion, you can opt to be a librarian, a book associate at a bookstore or a marketing executive for a book publisher. Jenny Javier, marketing executive for McGraw-Hill Education Philippines, opted for the latter.

McGraw-Hill companies is a global information services provider composed of three major business groups: Standard and Poor's for financial services, Business Week for information and media services, and McGraw Hill Education for educational materials and professional information. A company that thrives on information, McGraw-Hill relies on its marketing executives to market their textbooks, study guides, multimedia products, testing materials, online learning systems and software for college and post-secondary education markets.

Not just selling

McGraw Hill's marketing executives perform several functions. Javier handles the sales and marketing activities of a specific category of books published by McGraw-Hill. Javier handles two divisions, trade and medical books.

Selling books is only a fraction of her job. Javier's work includes events, promotions, product orientation and research. More importantly, the job comes with a bigger responsibility of promoting education and literacy in the country. After all, Javier is not just marketing pages of words; she's selling education and information. According to Javier, part of her goal is to bring the latest and the best material in the field of education.

Because the divisions she handles have different target markets and channels of distribution, Javier needs to use different approaches in marketing. Trade books cover a wide span of topics from business, personal development, career, finance, investment, pop culture, sports, fitness, parenting, cooking, computing and the like. She is responsible for distributing these books to retail stores and book shops. For medical books, she distributes these to book dealers who, in turn, market these through showrooms or directly to universities and hospitals.

Tools of the job

Marketing is an art of persuasion. It is a people oriented job that requires patience and a winning personality. According to Javier, "The job entails spending a lot of face time with people in the industry, so high EQ comes in handy."

ALL ABOUT WORK

Book marketing executives work closely with book buyers to ensure that bookstores and showrooms are updated and stocked with the latest releases and classic best sellers. "My aim is to make local bookstores comparable to those found abroad in terms of range, savvy and appeal," Javier proudly claims.

Aside from conducting product orientation sessions, it is also the executive's job to conceptualize in-store events and promotions. Marketing executives also need to have a good working relationship with book reviewers. Marketing right down to the readers, marketing executives often talk with professors to include the company's books in graduate school courses. Presently, Javier is working on launching a book club to "better focus on the needs of the business book buyers in Manila."

With these acticvities, Jenny adds, "A capacity for working long hours, creativity, high energy, initiative, and the ability to manage stress helps. You have to be ready to take trips from time to time." Of course, love for reading is a big plus.

A typical day for a book marketing executive is partly spent in the office and the rest outside. When Javier is out of the office, she is on store visits checking on her products. In the office, she constantly corresponds with the company's Singapore office discussing promotional plans and measuring the company against the bestsellers lists locally and abroad.

Rewards

For a book lover like Javier, hers is a dream job. "I love reading and used to spend hours in the bookstore before I got this job, so this unprecedented access to books is great! I feel lucky to have the chance to witness the process that goes into creating a book, from reading uncorrected proofs, giving feedback on how a proposed book will do in our market, and seeing a book get on the local bestsellers list."

As if being around books is not enough of a reward, Javier's job also entitles her to travel all over the country to meet authors and colleagues. "I like the fact that I am staying on not only because of the paycheck. I'm here because I like what I do and the people I work with."

Challenges

Like most marketing jobs, one of challenges is keeping ahead of competition. Every year, thousands of new titles are released by different publishers. "On the retail front, competition always improves the field for the consumers, so a few more bookstores in the Philippine market wouldn't hurt," claims Javier.

JENNY Javier

Javier says the real challenge is to help build an educated and literate community. She believes that this could be achieved by finding ways to provide affordable books by bringing in international editions and doing local reprints whenever possible. "A great day for me would be when I walk into a classroom and see that every student can afford to buy his own book. We still have quite a long way to go before it happens, but it is an inspiring vision."

Ingenious décor can bring holidays to workplace

By Mario Banzon

HOLIDAY decorations, which are normally loud and flamboyant, seem a bit incongruous to the workplace's typically monochromatic colors and generally conservative air. But there is a way to blend the holidays with the office environment.

"When we talk about office spaces, the word 'corporate' comes to mind so I guess the idea here is not to go overboard," says interior designer Michael Pizarro. "Do it in a very restrained and disciplined way but with sense and style." But, how exactly does one create a festive air? What colors and materials should be used? More importantly, how can one maximize the budget for office décor this Christmas? Michael Pizarro gives some tips on how to spruce up the office space this coming holiday season.

Use other colors

Though the colors red, gold and green practically symbolize Christmas, it wouldn't hurt to explore the other colors in the spectrum. One of the ways of doing this is using indigenous materials, which are mostly in earth colors. "Sometimes we can go offbeat (and use colors) like fuchsia and violet," he says. In fact, violet is an advent color, which means it even has a traditional significance. "And violet goes pretty well with brown and oranges," Pizarro points out.

"There are a lot of small yet powerful symbols of Christmas," he says. "Of course, we have lanterns. We can put small lanterns in every door in the office that would definitely bring cheer and joy for the holidays." He also suggests giving the traditional parol a twist by cutting out its the central portion and putting a picture in it.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Décor inventory

The best way to save money, according to Pizarro, is to slowly build up the office's inventory of Christmas decorations. "I suggest normally to start from the basic," he advises. "Most probably, a basic wreath or a basic bow or a basic ribbon would be very practical. Everything could be added on as you go and acquire (more materials)."

This is completely opposite to the usual practice of buying disposable materials, which can be a waste of money. "I mean, look at it this way. You decorate once a year and the decoration will stay within, at most 45 days. I don't really think you have to buy a lot of things in just one sitting," he says. With an inventory of holiday décor items, eventually, the office may not need to buy additional décor items since they would already have everything they need.

Live plants

If the office has only allotted P5,000 for Christmas decorations, Pizarro suggests buying live plants instead of the usual plastic Christmas decorations. "I would spend half of the budget buying real poinsettia plants in garden shops," he says. "Then, I would get several rolls of ribbons to tie the flowers together and group them."

One of the advantages of having live plants for decorations is that it will not consume storage space when the season is over. The employees could just take them home after the holidays. "If you are going to look at the time you are going to use it for decoration, it is more than enough," he says.

Simple wreath

But for very small, constricted offices, he suggests a very huge wreath to be placed at the center of the room. The wreath could also be a good substitute for a Christmas tree. He also advises to avoid repetition when decorating a small office, as it would only produce minimal effect and would use up more space.

"When we go spare, it doesn't mean we are slowing down in spirit," says Pizarro. "It (just) means simple treatment but maximum effect. Simple effort, simple budget, but high on impact." This, in fact, is only practical given the country's economic slump. "The possibilities are endless," he says. The trick is how to be creative in maximizing the given material and budget.

"A simple wreath or a bunch of joyful compositions in one corner is enough in a room," he says. "With the call of the situation right now and the economy and all, spare is really better. The simpler you do (the decorations) the stronger it comes out."

INTERIOR designer Michael Pizarro PHOTO BY BETOY JOHNSON

How do you handle a difficult person on the phone?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I had an angry lady on the phone and she was chewing my ear off. She was so rude I got a little sharp with her. Wouldn't you know it-my boss came along right then and heard me! He told me I better learn some better phone manners if I want to keep my job. How do you deal with rude people on the phone?

Not An Answering Machine

You got your ear chewed off? Listen to this. Mr. Ng Koon-man of Hong Kong went to the barber, and within moments of settling into the chair felt a sharp pain in his right ear. That is, it USED TO be his right ear. The barber had just cut a part of it off. (Guess that gives a whole new meaning to getting "clipped"...)

It sounds like you got a little "clipped," too, in your response to the woman on the phone. That's sure understandable: it's hard to stay calm when angry callers dump on you. The following strategies can help you neutralize those difficult callers so you can "give good phone" in the future. Look for more ideas in "Telephone Techniques" by Lin Walker (Amacom, 1998).

Telephone tips

Use the caller's name. One of the best ways to calm an angry caller, or to connect with an insensitive one, is to use the person's name as often as possible. It's usually harder to remain rude when you're being personally recognized.

Give the caller time to talk. People who are upset usually have a story to tell. Often, you can calm them down simply by letting them tell it. Be sure to inject a few "un-huh's" while they do so, though, so they feel that you're really listening.

Ask how the caller wants the situation resolved. Who knows? Maybe she'll want something you're prepared to give! Asking her directly can short-circuit a lot of unnecessary conversation.

Humor works

Know your bottom line. If you can't immediately offer what the caller wants, promise to get back to her by a certain time. Then decide what you CAN offer and call her back. But don't make your best offer immediately. That way, if she rejects your first offer you'll still have a backup.

When all else fails... try humor. After offering everything else I could think of to appease an angry caller, I once asked a woman if it would help if I stood on my head. To my surprise, she cracked up-and the rest of the call got easier.

Formally agree to agree. Once you've reached an agreement, be sure that you and the caller are on the same page: fax or email a confirmation that can be signed and returned.

Any way you cut it, angry callers can be a challenge. But hopefully, these tips will make even your hairiest phone calls easier so that your boss won't have to trim you out.

Poll results

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ ABCnews.com poll: What do you do when someone gets on your nerves on the phone?

—Speak up, 27%
—Shut up, 31.7%
—Hang up, 41.1%

(Mr. Rosner is the author of bestsellers "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

What's your competitive advantage?

By Dr. Tony Alessandra

HOW many times have you been in a selling situation where the customer's sole focus was on price? Anytime your customers can't tell the difference between your product or service and your competitor's product or service, the customer will buy based on price. You must be able to differentiate your company, your product, your quality, your service, and yourself if you want the customer to stop focusing on price and start seeing you as a partner, and not just as a supplier. You've got to show him how you are different.

Lack of knowledge

I've traveled around the country giving keynote speeches the past 22 years, I've been so amazed to find how many salespeople do not know and cannot articulate their competitive advantage to their prospects and customers! How can they expect their prospects and customers to give them their time and attention when they cannot tell them in a concise way what they can do for them that no one else can do?

Companies or sales reps who don't understand their competitive advantage say things like, "Our product has better quality" or "Our service is better." Even if a company is has better quality or better service, it won't convince its customers just by saying so because many of its competitors will be saying the exact same thing! You have to define quality. You have to show what outstanding service looks like and how your service differs from the competition.

Examples

How can you demonstrate your competitive advantage? Suppose someone walks up to you at a business conference or social gathering, introduces herself, and asks you what you do for a living. What would you say? Did you have any trouble? Did you stumble? Do you know what sets you apart from your competitors? If this was hard for you, you're not alone. If you were to ask the average car dealer, computer store or furniture manufacturer what they do for a living, they'll probably say, "I sell cars, computers or furniture." But what does every other car, computer or furniture company say? Exactly the same thing!

So what should the businessperson who understands his competitive advantage say? How about this for the car dealer: "My name is Mike from Competitive Motors. We've found that there is a lot of confusion in the automotive market today because there have been over 150 new models introduced in just the past three years. We've developed a computer book that profiles everything the buyer wants in a car and in less than five minutes, identifies the models most likely to fit their needs."

In this example, your statement of competitive advantage has four components: your name, your company, a statement about a typical problem experienced in your target market, and an intriguing statement about how you can help solve that problem. The statement of competitive advantage is a 30-second statement of what differentiates your company in the marketplace.

More examples

Here's another example: "My name is Marlene, and I'm owner of the company 'The Prescription for Doctors.' Physicians today are being pressured by insurers, employers, and patients to cut health care costs. Yet overhead costs for physicians are constantly rising. We provide a service that allows the physician to spend more time with patients and cut overhead costs at the same time resulting in better quality care at a lower cost. It's just what the doctor ordered!"

Here's one last example: "My name is Beth. It's nice to meet you. I'm with a company called 'The Greatest Advertising Agency in the World.' We've discovered that almost every successful product has either been the first entry in its category or it has been able to create a new category in the mind of its customers. What we do is help companies who are launching new products or having trouble with old ones ensure that their product is positioned to win!"

That really does set you apart from the competition and it makes you sound like a polished expert right form the start.

(To be continued next week)

(Dr. Alessandra is the author of "The Platinum Rule" and a motivational speaker based in the US. Visit his web site at www.alessandra.com.)

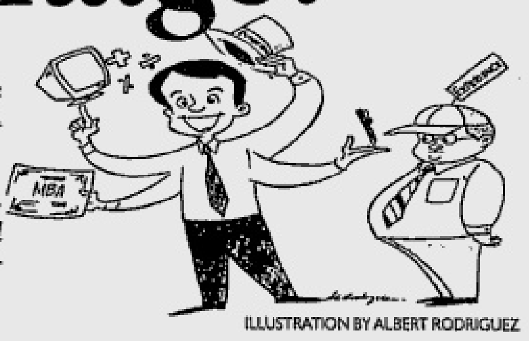

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

TOOLS FOR CAREER SUCCESS

Assertiveness can push you to success

Be more assertive!

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

By Ernie O. Cecilia, FPM

HAVE you ever looked back and realized how close you were to achieving your goals, if only you were a little more assertive? Did you ever hesitate asking for somebody's help only to find out later that he was willing to extend a hand? Do you remember those fears you harbored for so long, only to realize that they were baseless?

Millions of people remain faces in the crowd or just statistics in the database, afraid to reach for their dreams because they did not have enough courage to do the reasonable thing. Many people would rather not bother others with petty requests, for fear that they will be turned down. I have closely observed many successful people, and I found that one of the most common traits they have is assertiveness.

Successful people are not aggressive to the point of being obnoxious. In fact, they are polite and considerate with others, but they are as considerate with themselves. Assertiveness is pushing for your right, without trampling on others' rights.

If you want to move up a notch higher in life, business, or career, if you want your voice heard, or if you want to achieve your goals, try these few tips on assertiveness:

Be responsive, not reactive. Being responsive means doing what you need to do under the circumstances with an open, calm and peaceful mind. It allows you to dissect the issues clearly in your mind and develop a host of appropriate options and solutions.

Being reactive smacks of forced, tense, unprepared, ill-advised or somewhat irrational action that we usually take when suddenly confronted with certain issues or problems. This happens when we are totally unaware of issues that might affect us in our life, business or career. We tend to scamper for bright ideas that usually never come our way when we are in a reactive mode.

When we are reactive, we are unable to reason well and we usually end up being submissive to others. Since we are not prepared to justify our position, our being reactive can result in tremendous opportunity losses for us.

Go-don't wait till you're 100% sure. Successful people don't wait till they are sure before they can make a move. They know too well that in this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes. We all have to make assumptions and decisions. The worst decision is indecision.

Waiting for all the facts to surface or all the information to be gathered can take eternity for successful people. The ability to act quickly and decisively given a preponderance of information separates the successful person from the greater mass of humanity. "Just do it," says the athletic gear commercial. In most cases, when you have to wait for the complete information, it's too late. As they say in the stock market, "Buy on gossip, sell on news!"

Ask for help if you have to. Most successful people are never timid. Neither are they abrasive. Many people, however, tend to underestimate the capacity of the human spirit to be helpful. Successful people have, at one time or another in their lives, been at the receiving end of help, advice, push, or even a loan. Many successful people are just waiting to pay that debt of gratitude to someone else. Who knows, it could be you who are in line for the help ready to be dished out by a successful person?

All you have to do is muster enough humility to admit to yourself that you can't do everything alone. Know who is in the best position to help you and be assertive enough to ask for his help. Don't beg, just ask for help as a decent person will, not as a slave to a master. Don't make people guess what kind of help you need or if you need one at all.

Banish your fears. One of the major reasons why people are not assertive is because of unfounded fears. Many are overly sensitive to what others will say or feel when they assert their rights. Some are afraid to antagonize others while a great majority just can't stand disapproval, criticism or rebuke. With these and other forms of fear, they are cowed into submission and simply let go of their dreams, aspirations, and even their legitimate rights.

In a democracy, everybody has equal opportunities. In fact, anybody has the liberty to express his views, take risks, commit mistakes and even make a fool of himself. When people are too unduly cautious about the consequences of their actions, they tend to either get immobilized or approach life "tiptoeing" all the time. Either, of course, is a very uncomfortable feeling. So, if you want to succeed, throw all cautions to the wind, and banish all your fears.

Charge what you're worth. In my business, my clients know that I charge very high fees-higher than most of my competitors. So far, my clientele continues to increase in quantity and quality. I am confident that my clients know that their investment is recovered tremendously by way of the highest quality business solutions I offer, the personalized service I make, and the value I place in our continuing relationship. If I charge less or reduce my fees now, it might be misunderstood that I am not confident with the quality of my products and services. To maintain the same level of my income, it means that I need to find more clients, and my time for my existing clients will be diminished.

Some people are short-changing themselves and their customers by not charging what they are worth. If you know how much you are worth, don't be afraid to charge what is just and fair. Your customers will be happy to know that they are getting the best. You, too, will be happy with your deserved abundance.

In business or career, as in life, if you really want something, you must go after it. Don't wait to be discovered, don't keep others guessing what you want or how much you are worth. Assertiveness is what everybody needs to push them to success.

(Mr. Cecilia is president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a business and human resources consulting firm. He is a past president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines. Email him at erniec@edsamail.com.ph.)

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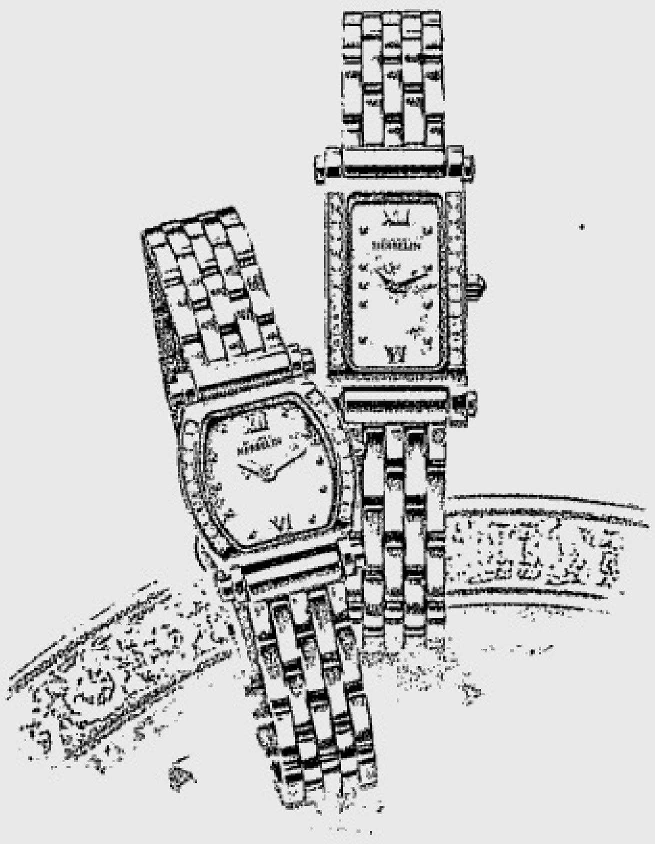

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PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
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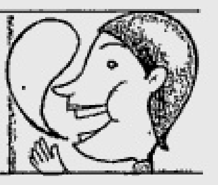
'How do you deal with a perfectionist boss?'

By Emily Abrera
Chair, McCann-Erikson Phils.

ASK YOUR CEO



I'M working as a market analyst in one of the top multinational companies for several years now. The pay and benefits are definitely higher compared to other companies. However, I am frustrated with my boss. He is a perfectionist and does not consider the feelings of his subordinates. I have observed too that in this company, only subordinates are being assessed by their superiors. I believe that, for effective communication, there must be a two-way process. It should be a give and take relationship. I guess, if every manager or superior can and is ready to accept that he / she is not perfect and can learn too from his/ her followers and subordinates, we can have better working relationships and a less-pressured workplace with a learning environment. Can situations like this be regulated? How can I help or let management know that it is necessary that they recognized their rank and file employees? Thank you.

RMA

Let me see if I clearly understand your dilemma.

You have been working for several years now in this company as a market analyst. So you are a permanent employee. But you are frustrated with your boss because you are not given a chance to give him or her feedback regarding his or her style of management... or because you don't even get a chance to discuss your rating.

If you are employed in a top multinational corporation, I would be very surprised to find that the company's performance evaluation system does not even allow for a two-way discussion regarding the ratings received by the rank and file from their supervisors. Most professionally run corporations (if not all) usually do! So then, perhaps the problem is your boss. Perhaps, he or she does not know how to evaluate properly or is simply not adept at it, or hasn't been trained to do it the right way.

CEO mentor Abrera

Talk is good

If this is where your problem lies, I would recommend that your first move must be to talk to your evaluator. Simply ask him or her to discuss in more detail the rating you have received. This is a fair request to make. After all, the purpose of an evaluation is so that you can be clear about expectations and where you need to improve. You may also ask for a substantiation of the rating you are given.

If your boss agrees, then you will have the opportunity to express, too, how you think your boss can help you become better at your job—what will help you be more productive, or perhaps how certain time-consuming processes can be made more efficient, or even how you can best be motivated.

Now, this isn't quite a 360-degree evaluation, but it's a good way of giving your supervisor some insights into your preferred work style and also a soft way of giving him or her some feedback regarding how you can best be motivated.

Next recourse

If your boss refuses to do so, then your next recourse is to talk to the HR Director. Explain your problem and see if the HR person can help resolve it. If the HR Director is a good one, he/she will know what to do. If this still fails to get any results, then you may consider talking to the chief executive, but you should first exhaust the first two options.

Has this always been a problem for you, or was it better during your earlier years with the company? It may be that your personality and that of your current supervisor are incompatible. If you have the wrong chemistry, for whatever reason, then, a good HR Director will be able to spot that and either transfer your to another team, or facilitate a round of discussions to resolve the conflict.

360-degree ratings

Now, on the other hand, what you want is a 360-degree evaluation, and what the company has is a simpler one-on-one rating system, then that's a tough one. You see, each company has its own systems and processes. Some companies are quite stringent in how they interpret their guidelines; others are more liberal.

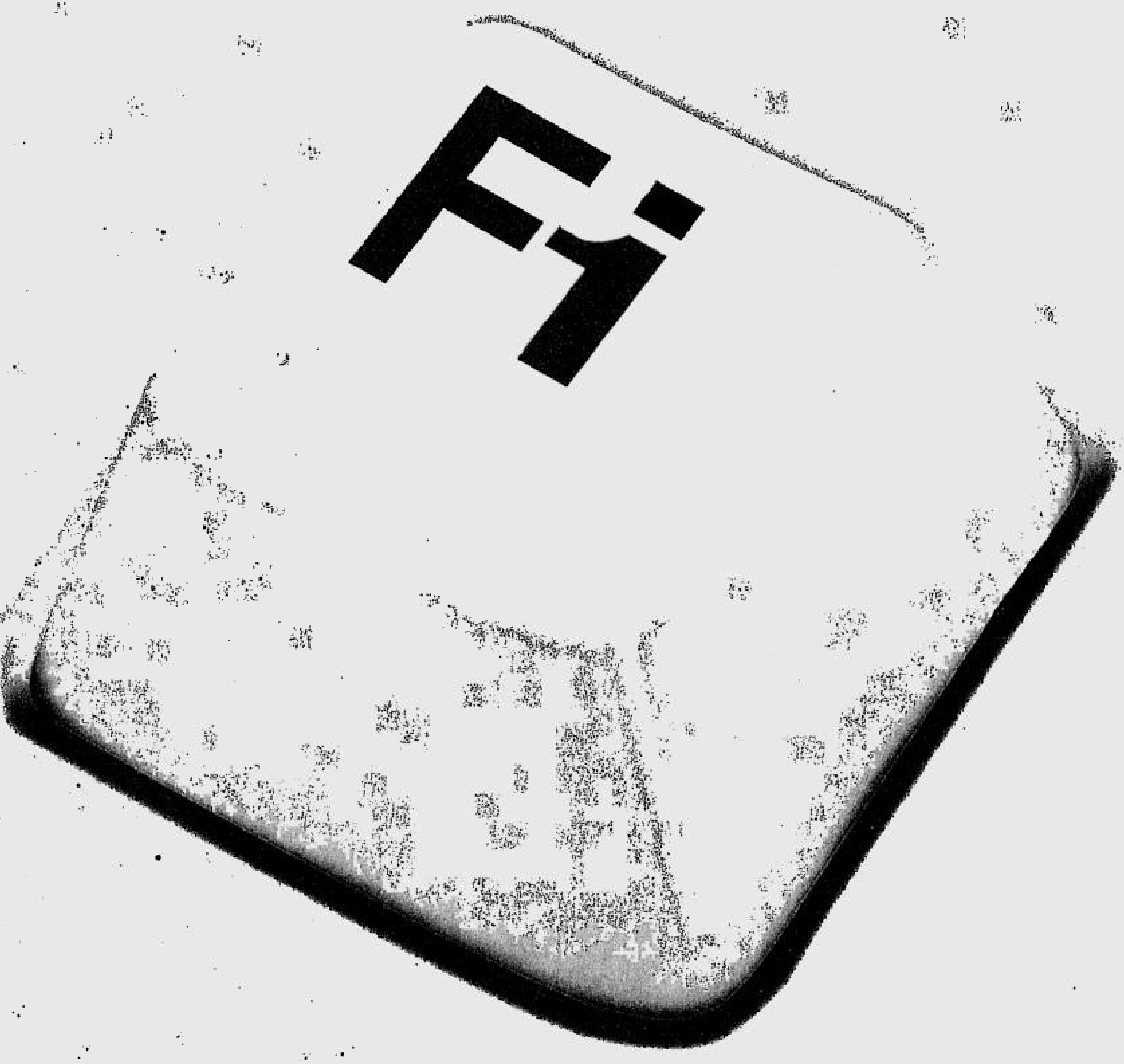
You'll find that 360-degree evaluations are adopted by rather enlightened organizations, where senior people are mature, self-confident, and open to receiving feedback and to new ways of achieving results. You are right; these kinds of companies are able to create wonderful learning environments for their staff (whether they are from rank and file or supervisory levels). These are the companies where employees give more than is expected because they feel they have a stake in it.

I know that sounds like an ideal place to work in, but there aren't very many of those places yet. Maybe, where you work isn't so bad either, if you can find a way of resolving your frustration regarding your evaluation.

I'm afraid there is no regulation (in the Labor Code) that exists which can help you in this particular case. As a permanent employee, though, you do have the right to be clearly apprised of expectations, and to be able to discuss whether you have achieved them on a yearly basis.

I hope things work out well for you, RMA. Best of luck.

(Our CEO columnists can answer requests for career advice through this column. Send your request by postal mail to the People at Work Editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1200 or by email to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.*)*



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ARE YOU READY FOR THEM?

Find out which bands will get closer to achieving their dreams at the RX Band Breakout finals on November 15

Text by Pam Pastor and Jason Doplito
Photos by Romy Homillada

FLASHBACK to 1999. Monster Radio RX 93.1 started Band Breakout to give amateur bands the chance to let the entire nation hear their music.

The idea was a success. Four years later, previous winners (Cousin Ed—2000, Ascencion—2001, Session Road—2002) have created names for themselves.

Other Band Breakout participants like Bent and Stonefree have also found a place in the local music industry.

This year, over 80 entries sent in by hopeful groups poured in from all over the Philippines. Fifteen bands were chosen for the semi-finals.

Now, seven groups are left: Silent Sanctuary, Willowy, Black Coffee, KJWÄN, 9th Avenue, Splitcide and Highbeam.

2bU! spent a day with the finalists at Shopwise along Pasong Tamo one Friday, making the supermarket our playground.

They may play different kinds of music, they may have different views on life but the finalists share a lot of things—their passion for music, their strong bond with each other and the determination to succeed.

The RX Band Breakout Grand Finals will be on Nov. 15, 8 p.m. at the Baluarte de Sta. Isabel, Intramuros. Admission is free.

ARE/ C2

EVERYTHING THAT HAS A BEGINNING HAS AN END
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
NOVEMBER

A stunning spectacle

The strength of 'Matrix Revolutions' is that it packs an impossibly complex universe into a fairly tight story

By Jeffrey Pe Benito
2bU! Correspondent

BY THIS TIME, it should be pretty clear. If you've missed out on one of the previous installments of "The Matrix," you'd be lost in the final chapter. If you've seen the previous ones a few times without watching "Animatrix" (the animated feature), you might still end up confused.

If you've burrowed yourself in the game, immersed yourself in the movies several times, and followed "Animatrix" to the line, you stand a chance of seeing the intricacies of the Matrix universe and understanding "Revolutions."

The last installment is as different from the first two movies as it could get, possibly with more time devoted to the real world than both its predecessors combined. The war is

A STUNNING/ C2

10 reasons 'Matrix Revolutions' sucked

By Adrian Dy
2bU! Correspondent

HAVING successfully hurdled the Curse of the Terrible Twos (which states that movie sequels and sophomore records suck), the third portion of the Matrix trilogy excited me like no other.

The second installment, "Matrix Reloaded," added much to the Matrix series and to the movie world in general. A number of important new characters came in to share the spotlight, hints were dropped regarding the prophecy of The One, and the car chase that ended all car chases led to a slew of summer action flicks that tried to top it ("T3" and "SWAT," anyone?).

Now, here was "Matrix Revolutions." I almost went into an epileptic fit when my cousin nearly lost our tickets while purchasing coffee before the movie.

In hindsight, we shouldn't have bothered looking for them.

Underused characters

Yes, a lot of them were. The Merovingian just sat around eating olives, while Perse-

10 REASONS/ C2

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ARE YOU REA

SILENT SANCTUARY

The name: "Silent Sanctuary is a place where a person can reflect and realize things. The songwriter chose the name because when he is writing songs, he's like escaping to a place of silence: Silent Sanctuary."

The members: Norman Dellosa, 18, guitars and vocals

Paolo Legaspi, 20, bass

Allen Calixto, 25, drums

Anjo Inacay, 19, cello

Chino David, 20, violin

Jeff Ramirez, 18, viola/violin

The band: They started as a rock trio until Anjo the cellist stepped in and provided a new sound for the group. Anjo then invited more string players to play for a special event. Liking the music they created, the group decided to stick together in producing a fusion of rock and classical music that is a joy to the ears.

The song: "Kahapon" or "Stay for a while"

The formula: Smashing Pumpkins + Apocalyptica + Dave Matthews band + pop x classical

In their own words:

We joined the RX Band Breakout... because, since we are an independent band, we have to grab every opportunity that comes our way to show what we're made of. There is no better opportunity than the RX Band Breakout.

We think you should know that... we are gay (i.e., happy!).

We are fans of... Billy Corgan, John Kzeznik, Aia De Leon, Ebe Dancel and Yo Yo Ma.

Music is... life.

If we can only play one song for the rest of our lives, it would be... "Iris" by Googoo Dolls.

We would never play... the "Ispageti Song."

When we're not playing, we are... chatting on YM or mIRC, logging into Friendster, eating, sleeping, arguing, practicing, laughing, writing songs and listening to RX.

We're different because... we are a rock band with a violin, viola and cello.

Our biggest dream is... to share our music with everyone.

The best things about being in a band are... friends, connections, freebies, meeting our idols and being able to share our music with everyone.

WITH their strings section, these boys successfully merge classical and rock—a mix better than fruit cocktail.

The name: "9th Avenue represents the road to our common dream—to be excellent musicians."

The members: Daryl Reyes, 17, vocals

Lady Onnagan, 18, vocals

Patricia Caparas, 20, vocals

Karl Gaurano, 19, percussions

Edu Reyes, 18, bass

Teddy Katigbak, 17, keyboards

Marco Katigbak, 18, drums

Nicko Katigbak, 19, lead guitars

The band: There's no doubt about it, 9th Avenue's members have strong ties. The connections between them read like a Friendster list. The members of 9th Avenue's rhythm section are childhood friends. The Katigbak boys are cousins. Daryl was a schoolmate of Teddy. Lady is a friend of Marco. Tricia auditioned a year ago. These eight people came together with one goal in mind: "to become excellent musicians." They're definitely on their way.

The song: "Baby"

The formula: Jesus + hard work + passion x commitment = 9th Avenue

In their own words:

We joined the RX Band Breakout... to meet new people, to have fun and gain exposure.

We think you should know that... we offer our music to God.

We are fans of... South Border, Toto, Gary V. and Brix.

Music is... a lifestyle.

If we can only play one song for the rest of our lives, it would be... "Buhay Barkada".

When we're not playing, we are... hanging out and playing hide and seek.

We're different because... of the characters of each member.

Our biggest dream is... to have 6-pack abs.

The best thing about being in a band is... friendship.

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BLACK COFFEE

The name: "Aside from being coffee drinkers, we first thought of identifying with the coffee experience by playing in coffee shops and lounges. But then the rockers in us came out."

The members: Rocky Villegas, 25, lead vocals

Abbie Africa, 26, acoustic guitars

Angela Perez, 26, back-up vocals

Olj Arboleda, 28, percussions

The band: Three of the members of Black Coffee are pre-school teachers. They started jamming two summers ago, in preparation for a school event. The directress, upon hearing them, encouraged them to keep playing. They haven't stopped since.

The song: "Cry"

The formula: [(Alanis Morisette + Vertical Horizon)$^{\text{Dido}}$ x (Adam Sandler + Norah Jones)$^{\text{Jewel}}$]

In their own words:

We joined the RX Band Breakout... to break out into the music scene.

We think you should know that... we're made up of three teachers and a florist, three girls and a guy, three La Sallites and one Atenean, three coffee drinkers and one alcoholic.

We are fans of... everyone on our equation and more.

Music is... freedom!

If we can only play one song for the rest of our lives, it would be... "Last Cup," our first original song.

When we're not playing, we are... eating and sharing stories while standing in the middle of the road.

We're different because... while from various backgrounds, we come together to teach and to realize that God meant us to play music together.

Our biggest dream is... to have an album and a mall tour... around the world.

The best things about being in a band are... the friendship and the music.

THREE pre-school teachers and one florist in a band? That's Black Coffee. Check them out.

KJWA

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A stunning spectacle

From page C1

the uncontested screen time focus.

The subplots—the impending attack on Zion, countless Armed Personnel Units shooting at legions of metallic squids, etc.—are given more time to overwhelm the viewer than the trademark "Matrix" scenes.

Visually, the movie is among the most stunning spectacles ever made. Never has metal striking metal looked so chaotic and intensely ferocious as it does here. From giant drills to swarming squids to bipedals with huge guns, the impending doom on humans is created with so much wild abandon that it's difficult to even notice what's happening.

The plot is nontraditional, to say the least. There are so many characters that it's almost impossible to keep up with them. The universe is so complex it makes your head hurt, and the basic storyline is tough to get at.

And yet the increasingly fast pace, the move-fast-or-it's-the-bloody-end feel to it is inherent to the movie. That's no easy task.

Amazing cast

The cast is amazing. After the original Oracle, Gloria Foster, died, the filmmakers found a great replacement in Mary Alice, who carries the light dignity the former brought to the role.

The actors carrying out the subplots are amazing—from the Kid (he's unnamed both in the "Animatrix" and the two "Matrix" movies), to Link, the operator, to Captain Mifune, the Armed Personnel Unit division head. All these performances were convincing in bringing out the many struggles humanity faces at any one point.

The original cast performs fittingly as ever. Even Keanu Reeves' uncanny ability to imitate a wall serves the movie well.

There was really no way they'd release the last "Matrix" movie without stunning visuals, or a philosophically charged plot or some sense of closure and a lingering sense of doubt.

Different as the third one is from the former two, "Revolutions" still makes you think about humanity, still makes your heart pound, still showcases clashing metal, still shines with the most absurdly beautiful gunfights, still offers dazzling hand-to-hand combat.

The strength of "Revolutions" is that it packs an impossibly complex universe into a fairly tight story. And while it does so, it gives you the chance to participate in a ride unlike any other.

10 reasons 'Mat

From page C1

phone tried to look sexy in the two minutes she was in the camera frame. And boo-hoo to fans of the "Enter the Matrix" video game, Ghost did absolutely nothing! Blink, and you might even miss him. Niobe spent the latter half of the movie frowning a lot and blaming things on Neo and Morpheus.

If the casting director replaced any of the above with cardboard cutouts, I don't think anyone would have noticed.

Stiff acting

After "The Matrix" came out, people universally agreed that the only line Keanu Reeves could say with any emotion was "Whoa."

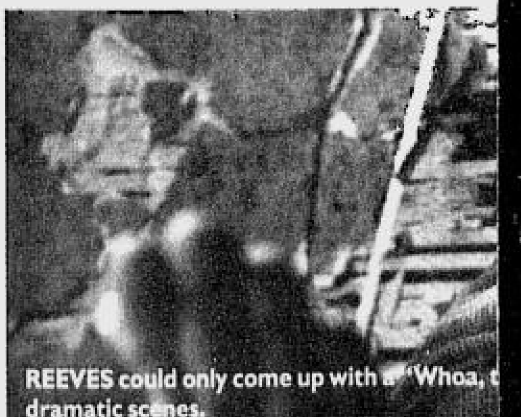
Nothing has changed much in "Revolutions." Was Reeves so amazed with the special effects that even in the most dramatic scenes, the one expression he could conjure up was, "Whoa, that's cool"?

What's worse, the two other principal characters, Trinity and Morpheus, weren't any better. What gives?

Annoying sidekick

Yup, remember that annoying tag-along kid who was obsessed with Neo in "Reloaded"? (For his complete story, check out the "Animatrix").

He's back, and now he's an ammo carrier spouting standard-issue lines like "You can count on me, sir!" and "I want to fight, sir!" Later on, he would live every sidekick's dream by actually having a (gasp!) significant role—which was too predictable, anyway.



REEVES could only come up with a 'Whoa, t dramatic scenes.

No longer for thinkers

Part of what made the first two Matrix movies so cool was the deep psychobabble, the "what-is-the-meaning-of-life" dialogues in between action scenes.

But for this movie, the producers decided to dumb down the talk to the point where big revelations such as Neo's motivation was reduced simply to "I do what I have to do," and Agent Smith became merely the antithesis of

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The name: "It was given to us by a friend from the band Sonnet LVII."

The members: Grace Jamon, 22, vocals
JR Tancinco, 23, guitars
Anthony Francisco, 24, guitars
Ian Hernandez, 21, bass
Flecher Hernandez, 24, drums

The band: The members of Willowy have been schoolmates since grade school. Upon discovering their flair for music, they decided to form the band in May 1998. Willowy makes its distinction with Grace's powerful vocals and the band's solid sound.

The song: "Juana"

The formula: (Letters to Cleo + Josie and the Pussycats) ÷ The Cardigans

In their own words:

We joined the RX Band Breakout... to try our luck.

We think you should know that... we have serious alcohol issues.

We are fans of... Culture Club, Fleetwood Mac, The Clash, Skid Row, Weezer, Beatles and Gin Blossoms.

Music is... everything. It is the air we breathe.

If we can only play one song for the rest of our lives, it would be... "Top of the World" by The Carpenters, the Shonen Knife version.

We would never play... "Ice Ice Baby" by Vanilla Ice.

When we're not playing, we are... playing Tekken Tag Tournament.

We're different because... *wala kaming kwenta*.

Our biggest dream is... to have our original songs reach out to people.

The best thing about being in a band is... free beer!

WILLOWY

THEY'RE FRESH. Take a bite of Willowy.

DY FOR THEM?

EY'RE NO
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The name: "We got our name from J-hoon's funny math story. He mistook the Tagalog word for a mathematical symbol."

The members: Marc Abaya, 24, vocals
Kelley Mangahas, 24, bass
Jorel Corpus, 22, guitars
Jun Balbuena, 24, drums

The band: The members of KJWÄN have three things in common—their passion for music, their school—all went to the Ateneo De Manila University, and "mutual respect for each of our other bands." They joined forces in May 2003, and now produce a sound that is both energetic and explosive.

The song: "Drizzle"

The formula: Justin Timberlake + Sade + Lenny Kravitz x our generation's music = KJWÄN

In their own words:

We joined the RX Band Breakout because... we wanted to grow as musicians and meet other musicians from different genres.

We think you should know that... we're well-behaved animals trying to be human.

We are fans of... Audioslave, Sting and The Neptunes.

Music is... fun and games!

If we can only play one song for the rest of our lives, it would be... "Happy Birthday."

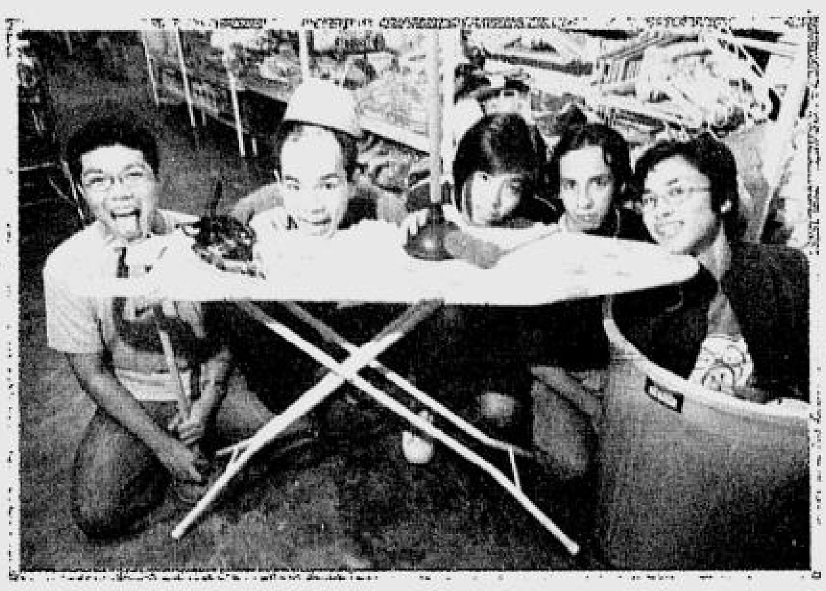
We would never play... country music.

When we're not playing, we are... eating. *Basta* we eat so much.

We're different because... of the Ä in KWÄN.

Our biggest dream is... world domination.

The best thing about being in a band is... getting to do what we want to do and sometimes make money doing it.



SPLITCIDE

SHOULD their dreams come true, this band will soon become a household name.

The name: "Someone blurted it out, and ever since we've been trying to figure out what it means."

The members: Migi de Belen, 17, vocals
Edmund Solilapsi, 18, turntables
Vince Tablante, 18, guitars
Junnosuke Kato, 18, guitars
Keno Medina, 18, drums
Paolo Manlutac, 21, bass

The band: You've got their schools to thank for bringing these guys together. They all met in grade school and have been friends since. Now that they're in college, they're not only friends, they're bandmates as well. When Splitcide plays, they look like they're having a blast. Thanks to them, we are too.

The song: "Wala ka na"

The formula: $\sqrt{\text{Incubus x P.O.T. X Red Hot Chili Peppers}}$ = Splitcide

In their own words:

We joined the RX Band Breakout... because *masaya kasi*, and for experience, opportunity.

We think you should know that... we usually get technical problems because of our DJ.

We are fans of... Incubus, P.O.T., Dave Matthews Band, Urban Dub, Red Hot Chili Peppers, 311, Razorback.

Music is... a commitment and a lifelong journey.

If we can only play one song for the rest of our lives, it would be... "Wala Ka Na"—song namin.

When we're not playing, we are... bowling, watching movies, in the mall, talking, joking, drinking, road tripping (and getting lost), eating at Keno's house and Edmund's house.

We're different because... we're not trying to be... too much.

Our biggest dream is... to have a record label, go on tour, see the world and be a part of it.

The best thing about being in a band is... friendship! The opportunity to share our experiences with each other and with everyone around us.

ix Revolutions' sucked

hat's cool" expression even in the most

the One. It took three movies just to say that?

Aliens rip-off

When the Sentinels finally break into Zion's docks, the movie forgets its purpose and becomes the traditional Hollywood "humanity against them" summer blockbuster.

Sure, CGI robot squids look better than the ones schlock movies such as "Independence Day " pushed around, but it's still nothing we haven't see before.

Nothing new

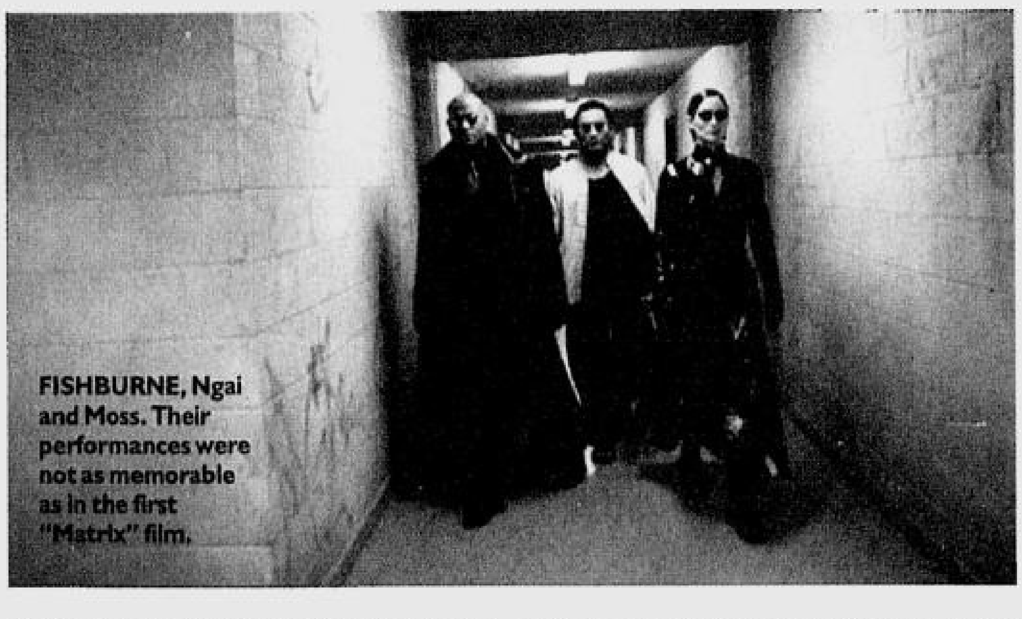
"The Matrix" revolutionized the concept of an action movie by adding bullet time. "Reloaded" took bullet time one step further by applying it to chase scenes. In "Revolutions," bullet time is used exactly twice, and it's something we've seen in countless other action flicks that tried to spruce up their lack of plot by ripping off "The Matrix." Irony of ironies, "Revolutions" cannibalized its predecessor!

Live action Dragonball Z

Curious to see how Dragonball Z would look like as a live-action movie? Watch "Revolutions." In the penultimate brawl between Agent Smith and Neo, the two take to the air and trade punches and kamehamehas. Well, maybe not the latter, but if you can picture Son Goku slugging it out with Frieza in midair, punching and kicking at the rate of a hundred smacks a second, you can pretty much imagine the supposed "brawl to end all brawls."

Plot holes by the bucket

If an EMP would disrupt all machines in its blast zone, including Zion's defenses, then why were Niobe and company sent to look for one? Would you really give a traitorous crew member a medical examination without anyone around to act as security? Did anyone forget that the Merovingian was usually protected by vampire-like dudes? What happened to the High Council's order to recall all ships and to use them to protect Zion? Don't scripts get checked by continuity-checking editors anymore?



FISHBURNE, Ngai and Moss. Their performances were not as memorable as in the first "Matrix" film.

Crappy ending

If ticket purchases were refunded for everyone who guessed the movie's ending before actually watching it, this movie won't even make a single cent. What's more ludicrous, a character actually spoils the ending about halfway through the movie.

Coming out of the theater, I couldn't shake the feeling that they could have summarized the entire trilogy into a single film, if they weren't that lazy or greedy.

They weren't kidding...

Yes, they weren't, when they said that "The Matrix" was largely a metaphor for Christianity.

But stealing material from other movies is one thing; stealing material from the life story of Jesus Christ is another.

New Ring Tones

Harder To Breathe
Maroon 5
TONE HARDER

Shake Ya Tailfeather
Nelly And P Diddy
TONE TAILF

Fallen
Mya
TONE FALLEN2

Look To The Sky
Train
TONE LOOKSKY

Love's Divine
Seal
TONE LOVESDIV

(There's Got To Be)
More To Life
Stacie Orrico
TONE MORETO

Perfect
Simple Plan
TONE PERFECT2

Stand
Jewel
TONE STAND

Sweetest Sin
Jessica Simpson
TONE SWEETSIN

Send Me Your Love
Sting
TONE SENDMELUV

zed Powtone

Get the hottest ring tone automatically delivered to your cell phone weekly.

Type **POWTONE** and send to **288**.

Featured tone of the week:
Have A Little Faith In Me
by **Mandy Moore**.
Exclusively available via POWTONE.

CAL GUY
Get a different "guy" calendar logo everyday!
WED 12 NOV
Just send **CALGUY to 288**.
P5 per daily delivery of logo.

CAL GAL
Get a different "girly" calendar logo everyday!
nov 12 wed
Just send **CALGUY to 288**.
P5 per daily delivery of logo.

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LOGO NUTS
1 Type in keyword. Ex. LOGO NUTS, TONE HARDER, or PIC BEAUTY1

288
2 Send to 288.

3 Save upon receiving logo, ring tone or picture message.

To send a logo, tone or picture message to a friend, type **<keyword> <cell phone number>** and send to **288**.
To send a logo,
LOGO NUTS 09181234567.
To send a tone,
TONE HARDER 09181234567.
To send a picture message,
PIC BEAUTY1 09181234567.

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20 minutes with Alice Peacock

The current toast of pop music talks about music. inspiration, milestones, social issues and even pets

By Vanessa Arellano Doctor
2bU! Correspondent

INTERNATIONAL singer/songwriter Alice Peacock speaks of her music with such fondness and humility.

While she was being interviewed for this piece, she was all accommodating despite the fact that her eyes spoke of the need for rest. The ready smile on her face truly should bring shame to some of the cranky artists we have.

Most of Alice's songs are acoustic-driven, which she defines as "pop with intelligence." It is definitely a welcome change from the barrage of commercialized pop, hiphop and rock music saturating the scene.

Her music makes us wish we were just lounging around at home with warm sunshine on our faces, soaking in the beauty of life instead of worrying about its complications.

The message is simple: Live life and love it.

The success of Peacock's first independent album, "Real Day," was like a fairytale come true. Alice recorded a demo CD with songs written when she was in college and sent it to Amazon.com's Advantage Program for independent artists, where it eventually landed on the site's Top 10 Emerging Artists list.

Rave reviews of "Real Day" earned her a spot on tours with acclaimed artists Lucy Kaplansky and John Gorka. And when Alice began to prepare for the independent release of her second album, Aware/Columbia Records (home of John Mayer and Five For Fighting) picked it up for distribution.

Majority of the songs in her self-titled album reflect the same earthy and inspirational themes as in the first one.

The record includes the highly popular love song "Bliss," which she sang with acoustic-favorite John Mayer, the warm piano ballad "Some Things Get Lost" and "I'll Start With Me," which has led to the establishment of the I'll Start With Me literacy program with Host Foundation and the Oscar Mayer School.

In this interview, Alice talks about music, inspiration, milestones, social issues and even pets.

Alice Peacock. Is it your real name? It's very unusual.

It is! (Chuckles) When I was growing up, I wished I had a more average name like Smith. But now I'm thankful for it because it has better recall.

Since this is your first time in the Philippines, what do you think about our country?

The first thing I noticed was the heat, the humidity. But I've been able to cope with it because I've been indoors most of the time for radio and TV guestings. Coming here was also the longest plane ride I've ever been in. I came direct from Los Angeles, though Chicago's my home, as I was preparing for a new record, writing new songs and figuring out who I want to produce it with.

"Bliss" has become very popular here.

Yes! And I think it's really cool to be able to come to the Philippines and have people know most of my songs. It's really exciting!

Your first performance was at Eastwood City. The place is very Western. Did it bring back memories of home?

It's amazing how much it looks like America, with Seattle's Best and all the other foreign restaurants. We ate at Via Mare. I don't really remember everything I had, but I especially liked *adobo* and *pancit*. I had *lumpiang shanghai* when I was in the States and I liked it too. The people here have been great!

Have you gone out to other bars already?

I'm a pretty boring person. I'd rather stay at the hotel room, call for room service and maybe sleep. I'm currently reading "Atlas Shrugged" by Ayn Rand and I intend to finish it soon. I read her other book, "The Fountainhead," and it definitely changed the way I view things. I like the concept of trying to be the best we can be and reaching our highest nature. Ayn Rand does that.

Would you prefer writing to singing? You write very well.

I don't know if I can separate them. But I sang first. The first song I ever wrote was this Russian tune, which had no lyrics but one that I constantly played on the piano.

I used to write songs when I was in high school and perform during talent shows and graduation. They weren't really that good then, but I figured it wouldn't hurt if I tried. I'm a risk-taker. I'd hate to look back when I'm 80 years old and think, "What if I had given it a shot?"

So you aren't the shy type then.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

I've always been brave. What's the worst thing that could happen? People would laugh or tell me to keep quiet. But they haven't. I think when you are being honest, people would reward you for your bravery. I think we're all special in some ways.

I don't consider myself better than a good doctor, or a good plumber, or a good teacher, I just think that whatever you do, whatever your talent is, you should always do your best. I feel very lucky I get to do something I love; that I get to make music and sing and write songs, and have people connect to it.

How would you define your music?

I think it's pop with intelligent lyrics. I believe that I write the types of memorable songs that I relate with and want to sing along with. But more than anything, the songs I write come from a true place so there's no fluff in them. I derive content from my own experiences, as well as from the people I know. I draw on things I see and observe.

How long does it take you to write a song?

The good ones? Like that (snaps her fingers). I don't have to be in a certain place or mood. I just have to be ready to receive it, like a radio that receives signals. It helps that I have my guitar out of the case or I pass by the piano from time to time. I mean, you have to increase the odds. I always bring a tape recorder with me so my ideas don't get lost somewhere.

How do your favorites influence you?

I admire Joni Mitchell for the honesty of her writing. I also love Carly Simon and Carole King's melodies and twists in words. I like Neil Young's passion and fearlessness and Frank Sinatra's way of making his songs sound so easy and effortless. Or Ella Fitzgerald for having so much fun when she makes music.

What's your most memorable performance so far?

I was touring with John Mellencamp last year and we had to perform in front of 15,000 to 20,000 people. At the start of the show, John approached me and asked me if I knew the lyrics to his song "Pink Houses," which was big at the US that time, and I said yes. He asked me if I could sing the first verse and then meet up at the chorus. I got so excited!

There I was belting out my best, when John suddenly told me "Go over to Mike." Mike was the guitar player at the other end of the stage, so I went there and jammed with him. But what he really said was, "Now give me the mic." So there was John reaching over to me from the other side and the band was just laughing! It was so funny!

I got really worried after that, but when John asked me to sing with him again in the next shows, I figured, hey I must have done something good! I totally admire John Mellencamp. I listened to his songs growing up and having the chance to perform with him was a great achievement.

Tell us about the I'll Start With Me Literacy Campaign.

I'm working with the HOST (Help Others Smile Too) Foundation and the Oscar Mayer School to support education and programs for inner-city kids.

When I was a girl, one of my passions was reading, since we didn't have television at home. At first I felt like I missed out on a lot, but reading worked well for me. It has become a gift, as I've learned to use my imagination with a lot of things. Now I want to give something back in my hometown of Chicago.

In your self-titled album, there's a song entitled "I'll Start With Me." I assume the program was inspired by that.

Yes, it was. There were after-school reading programs in our community that needed a lot of books, funding and volunteers. I thought, How can I make a difference?

The problems in this world can seem so overwhelming, but we shouldn't forget that we can each make a difference, even in our own little ways. I know a lot of people who want to help, but don't know how and what to do about it. So I established I'll Start With Me so we can help kids and inspire them to read more.

Is there anything else you'd want to achieve now that you've reached success?

Well, a Grammy (award) would be nice. I'd also like to get better as a writer and a performer. I intend to make this long-term.

Which artists do you want to perform with?

Sting, Neil Young, Peter Gabriel and Tom Petty. They're all such great artists.

If you weren't singing, what would you be doing?

I'd probably be a veterinarian. I love pets! I have a German Shepherd, two cats, Fred and Wylie, and some fish.

How do you want to be remembered?

As somebody who inspired a lot of people and shared myself through my music so that others could be inspired to follow their dreams. The musicians that meant the most to me encouraged me through really tough times and told me I could tackle challenges.

So I'd like to do the same for other people. To encourage them to be who they are and be the best they can be. Ultimately, it's not about being rich or famous, because you can't take that with you when you die. But you can take your inspiration and pass it down to other generations.

Dahil nakakasawa na ang fruitcake.
Mmmmerry Christmasarap! made sa Pillsbury
Pillsbury

Maghanda naman ng tunay na magpapasarap ng inyong Pasko tulad ng Pillsbury Chocolate Cake.

This Christmas, share the love that comes with freshly baked Pillsbury goodies. Learn the recipe of this mouth-watering, easy-to-bake chocolate cake and many other tasty variations on Gourmet Everyday on Channel 5, Sundays from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. or simply call 02-885-0424. Join the Mall Tour with our celebrity mom and sample Pillsbury sweets. Get to meet the Doughboy and win exciting prizes and surprises!

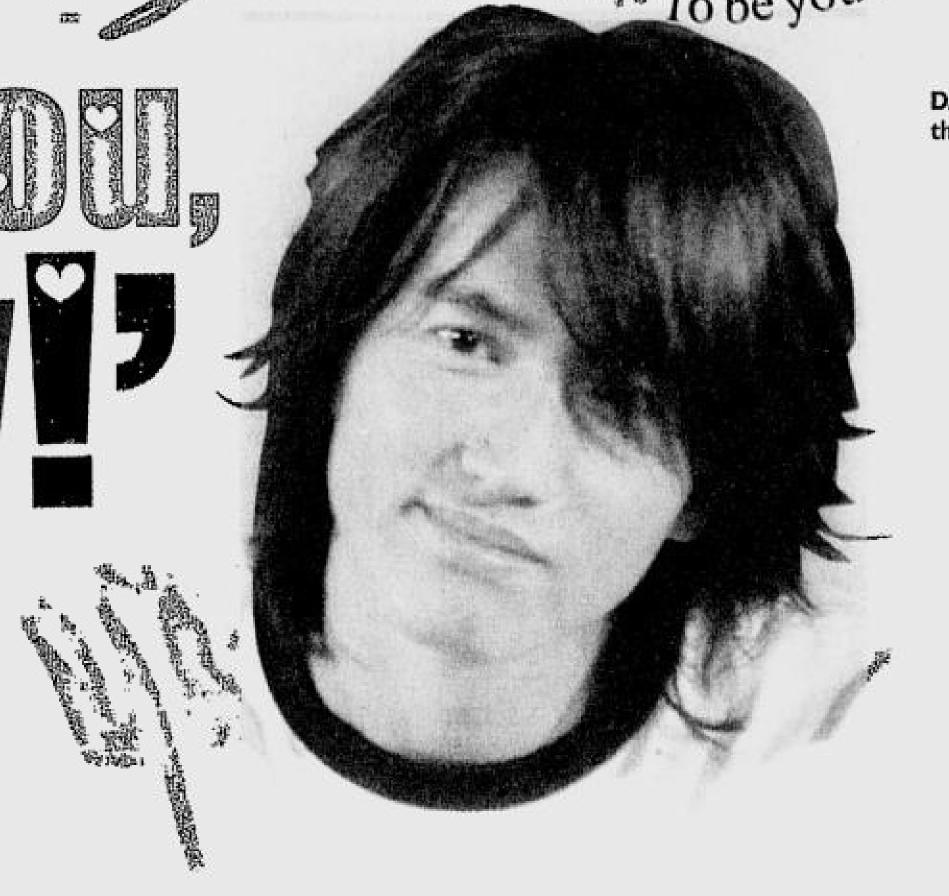
Taste the Pillsbury goodness at these malls:

[illegible]

And watch out for more mall tours in December.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No 1056, Series of 2003.

'I love you, Jerry!'



DAO'S the man!

love ko bench

Text by Ruth Navarra
Photos by Chito Vecina

"HI Jerry... *wo ay ni* (I love you)!"

These are hardly the words any self-respecting journalist would say in a presscon. But, yes, that was me who uttered those words. Shamelessly, I'm an F4 fan first, and anything else second.

So when the opportunity presented itself to be face to face with my idol, I chucked all inhibitions. I even took the risk of the microphone being whisked away from me just to be able to finally tell Jerry Yan, the man of my dreams and Bench's hottest endorser ever, what I felt about him.

Passport to happiness

A couple of days before the event, someone in the office flaunted her small, red Bench passport that was to serve as the invite to the presscon.

After a few hours of arm twisting and a promise that I'd be her slave for the rest of my life, she took pity on me and handed me the invite.

For that alone, I felt like I had won the Miss Universe crown.

I couldn't eat properly in the next few days—not that I felt any pangs of hunger. I also spent many good hours of my sleeping time imagining various versions of Jerry running towards me and sweeping me off my feet.

The night before the presscon, unable to sleep, I carefully filled my bag with necessary paraphernalia: F4's pop-up album, "Meteor Rain" CD, a couple of posters, two tape recorders, a permanent marking pen and a camera (despite the clear instructions that only authorized photographers would be allowed to take pictures).

The Big Day. I woke up early to go to a salon and have my hair done a la San Cai. To show that Jerry's ad campaign was indeed effective, I made sure to wear a red HerBench tee, which I recently bought because of the free Jerry Yan poster promo, and Bench Overhauled pants.

Big mistake. The minute I got to Le Pavilion, the site of the presscon, I realized I blended too well with the crowd. Everybody else was wearing the same thing! How, oh how would my beloved see me in the crowd?

Broken rules

I was disappointed, too, that there were metal railings placed a few meters before the stage. "To show our Taiwanese visitor that we can handle his security," a Bench representative explained.

Apparently, they didn't want a repeat of the pandemonium that happened during Jerry's courtesy call in Malacañang.

Well, though I was deeply concerned with Jerry's safety, I also knew the railings meant I wouldn't get anywhere near him. Darn the barriers!

Pia Guanio kept the members of the press and the fans posted on Jerry's movements and whereabouts. Every single report was met with loud, excited cheers.

I spent the interminable minutes reviewing the few rules I set out for myself: No screaming, no jumping for joy and no stupid grin on my face.

Naturally, I broke all those rules the minute his chopper landed on the ground. But not consciously, though. I only realized I was violently shaking the arms of my seatmate like a rag doll when she held my hand to calm me down.

A blur

Everything was a blur to me when he finally entered the stage. I was filled with so much awe, because I couldn't believe he was actually there, Jerry Yan in the flesh, flashing his bedimpled smile every now and then.

Boy, was he drop-dead gorgeous. There is simply no other way to describe him. From his tousled hair to his graceful gait, he looked as if he just stepped out of the graduation scene of "Meteor Garden II."

But unlike the confident and tough Dao Ming Si on TV, Jerry in person looked extremely shy and overwhelmed by all the attention showered on him.

"*Grabe, talagang mega*-emote *siya sa pagpo*-pose *ha!* (He really takes his poses seriously)," a group of girls beside me gushed after seeing how Jerry projected for the cameras that were feasting on him.

Hey, let's not fault

I LOVE/D3

> When the chance came to be face to face with the man of my dreams, I ditched all inhibitions and went for broke

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GERRY'S FRIED CHICKEN
BLUE MARLIN STEAK
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PRESENT THIS AD & GET A P50.00 OFF YOUR TOTAL BILL FOR A MINIMUM SINGLE PURCHASE OF P500
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* DINE-IN ONLY
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4784 Series of 2003

onstage 2nyt

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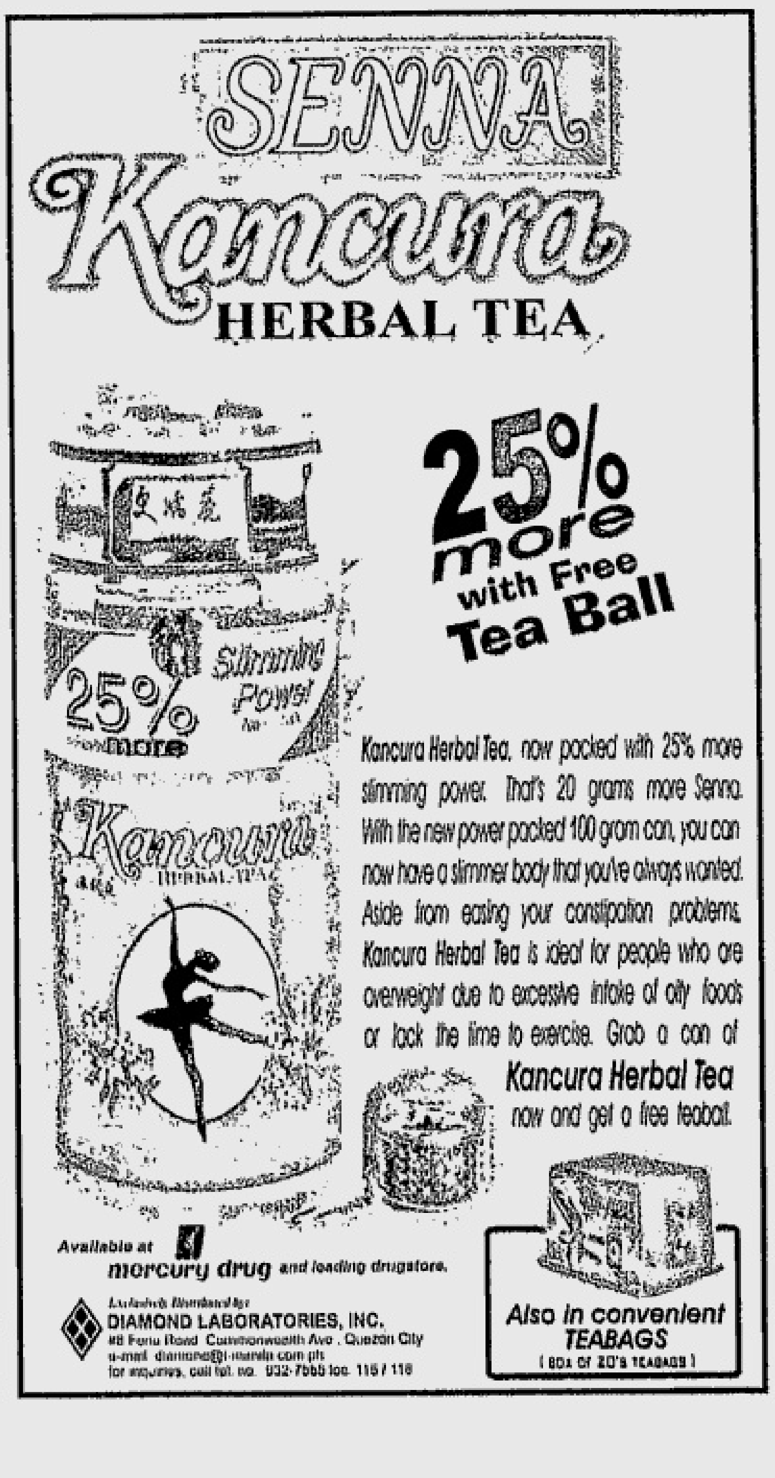

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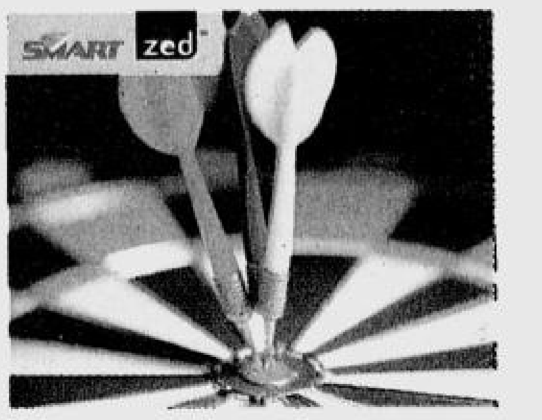

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LOGO LOVE 5	LOGO TWIRLS 15
LOGO LASSEXY 6	LOGO ILY4EVER 16
LOGO DRAGON7 7	LOGO 4SKULLS 17
LOGO HARTROSE 8	LOGO DEATH4 18
LOGO SATANFIRE 9	LOGO ZOMBIE 19
LOGO MRSUAVE 10	LOGO JESUS 20

Top 20 ring tones

1 Mr. Suave *Parokya Ni Edgar* **TONE MRSUAVE**	**11** Can't Lose You *F4* **TONE CANTLOSE**
2 Spaghetti Song *Sexbomb* **TONE SPAG**	**12** Tuwing Umuulan At Kapiling Ka *Regine Velasquez* **TONE UMUULAN**
3 I'll Be *Edwin McCain* **TONE IBE**	**13** Here We Are *F4* **TONE HEREWE**
4 Where Is The Love *Black Eyed Peas* **TONE WERISLUV**	**14** Build Me Up, Buttercup *Sound Alike* **TONE BUTTERCUP**
5 Unwell *Matchbox 20* **TONE UNWELL**	**15** Banal Na Aso *Yano* **TONE BANAL**
6 Numb *Linkin Park* **TONE NUMB**	**16** Thoia Thoing *R. Kelly* **TONE THOIA**
7 Ignition *R. Kelly* **TONE IGNI**	**17** Get Busy *Sean Paul* **TONE GETBUSY**
8 Broken Vow *Lara Fabian* **TONE BROKEN**	**18** I Want You *Thalia & Fat Joe* **TONE IWANTU**
9 Mr. Suave Ver. 2 *Parokya Ni Edgar* **TONE MRSUAVE2**	**19** Perfect *True Faith* **TONE PERFECT**
10 Kanlungan *Noel Cabangon* **TONE KANLUNGAN**	**20** Somebody To Love *George Michael* **TONE TOLOVEU**

The madder you are, the better your chances!
Join now for a chance to win a fully-loaded TOYOTA Vios
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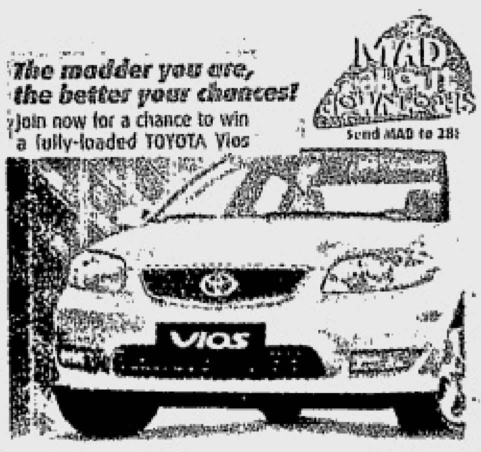

Send MAD JOIN <name>/<address> to 288.
Ex: MAD JOIN Ruby Rosima/ 108 Herrera St. Makati City.
Once registered, you get a raffle entry every time you download a logo, pic message or ring tone. Promo is open to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers.
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DAYS TO GO 'TIL THE GRAND DRAW 16

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To send a tone, TONE MRSUAVE 09181234567.

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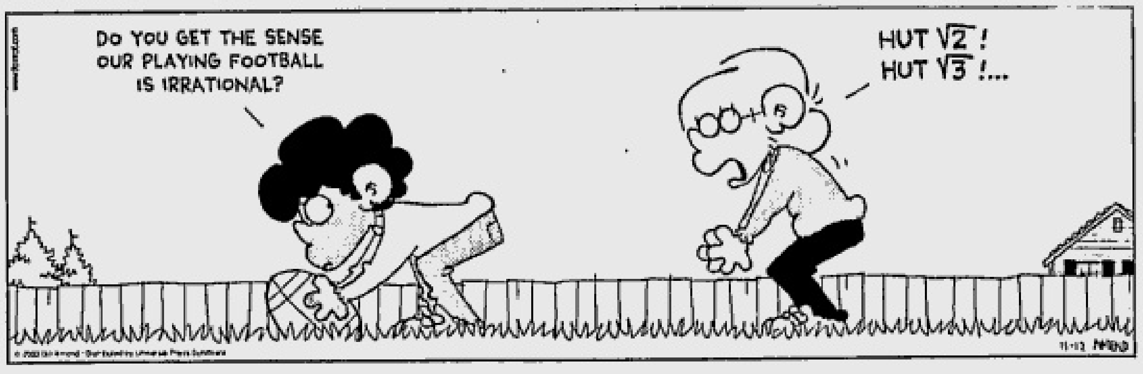
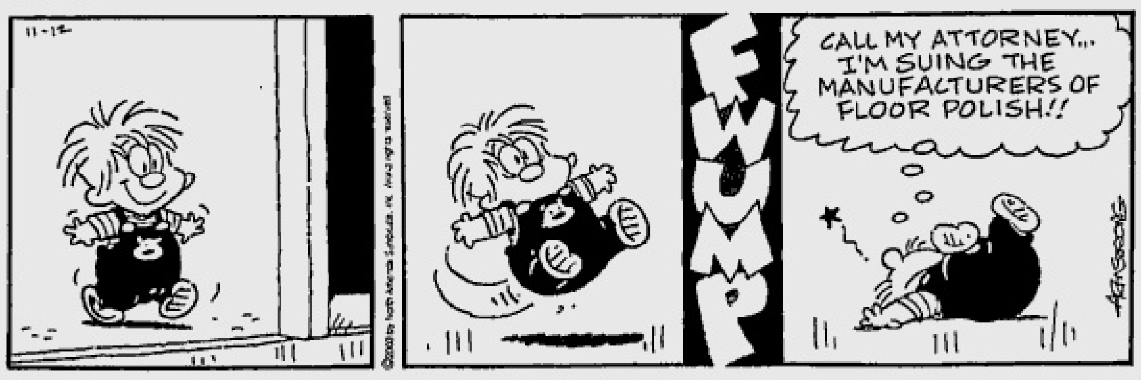
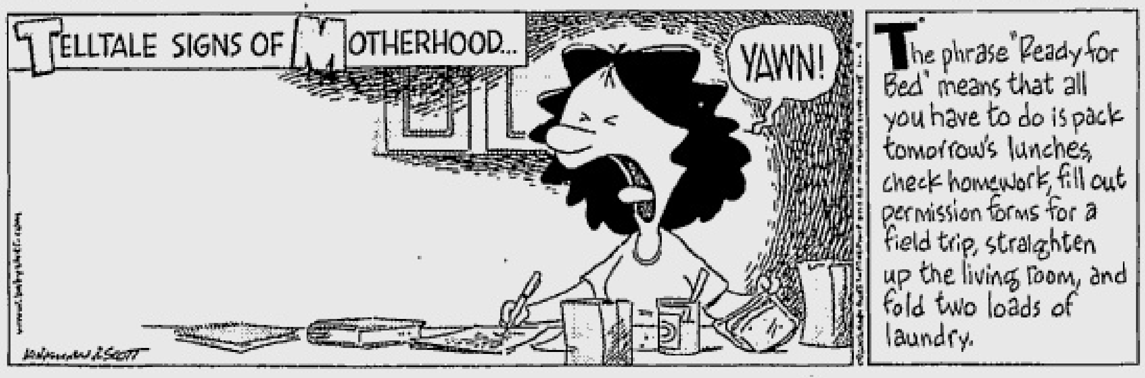
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


DO YOU GET THE SENSE OUR PLAYING FOOTBALL IS IRRATIONAL?
HUT $\sqrt{2}$! HUT $\sqrt{3}$!...

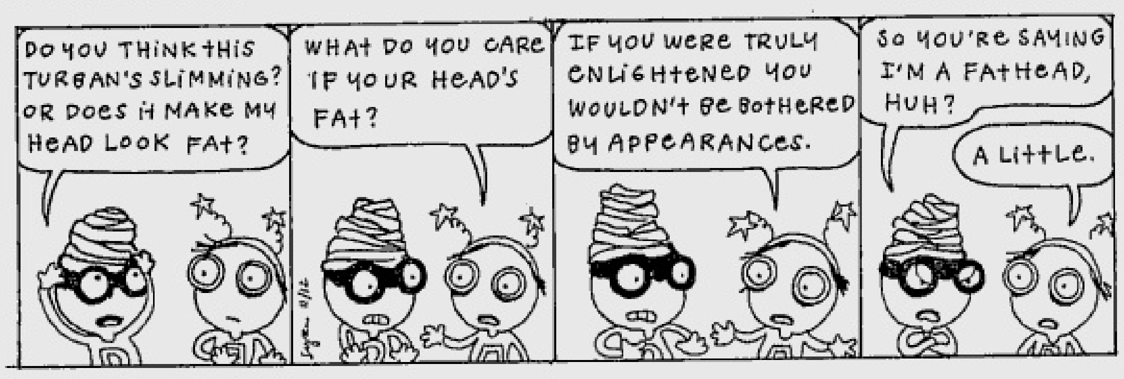
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


FWUMP
CALL MY ATTORNEY... I'M SUING THE MANUFACTURERS OF FLOOR POLISH!!

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


TELLTALE SIGNS OF MOTHERHOOD...
YAWN!
The phrase "Ready for Bed" means that all you have to do is pack tomorrow's lunches, check homework, fill out permission forms for a field trip, straighten up the living room, and fold two loads of laundry.

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DO YOU THINK THIS TURBAN'S SLIMMING? OR DOES IT MAKE MY HEAD LOOK FAT?
WHAT DO YOU CARE IF YOUR HEAD'S FAT?
IF YOU WERE TRULY ENLIGHTENED YOU WOULDN'T BE BOTHERED BY APPEARANCES.
SO YOU'RE SAYING I'M A FATHEAD, HUH?
A LITTLE.

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: People find you mesmerizing. Your attractive personality seduces everyone. You are talented and extremely competent. You appreciate beauty and work to create it in your surroundings. Self-knowledge is important to you. You can overcome great obstacles. The year ahead focuses on your closest relationships. **Birthdate of:** Neil Young, musician; Sammy Sosa, baseball player; Grace Kelly, Princess of Monaco/actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Heated arguments about political or religious topics are likely today. You always have strong views about most things. Just don't lose a friendship over them.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The physical side of your sexual nature is aroused today. You have energy to burn, and you are looking for immediate gratification in all things.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel intensely about things today. Essentially, you want your way. You aren't afraid to speak up to bosses and authority figures now. Tread carefully, however.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You are skilled at putting forth ideas about how to improve your job or solicit cooperation from co-workers. Your sheer enthusiasm will make others agree with you today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your romantic passions are inflamed today! You want to live life fully! Be careful if there are underlying tensions in your relationships. They will leak out now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Someone is prepared today to help you make changes at home or perhaps to your family dynamic. Welcome this opportunity! Accept all the help that is offered.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might be surprised by how attracted you feel to somebody today. That's because you are excited at some level within yourself. In all likelihood, it is just a physical attraction (lust at first sight).

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Nobody can talk you out of spending money to have some fun today. You want to enjoy yourself! You might also want to treat children and others to entertaining times.

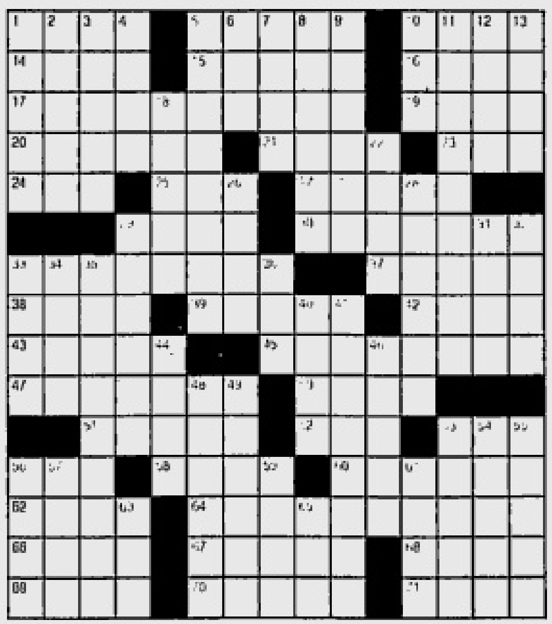
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have a lot of energy that needs to be released today. You're enthused about everything in life. Changes taking place at home particularly excite you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): How can you improve your style of communicating with your daily colleagues? This is a good question to ask yourself today. Don't be afraid to tell others that you care for them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Some kind of group activity or organization could solicit money from you today. Be careful that you do not go overboard in your response. Match your enthusiasm to your pocketbook.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You have a strong zest for life today. You want others to accept your ideas. Keep in mind that everybody feels assertive and energetic today; therefore, be diplomatic.

DAILY CROSSWORD


By Jack Hammond
Savannah, GA
11/12/03

ACROSS
1 Beef and moan
5 "Cheers" barmaid
10 Sharif or Epps
14 Lotion additive, often
15 Contempt
16 Like hen's teeth
17 Required
19 A single time
20 Mississippi city
21 Guam or Yukon: abbr.
23 Pentagon grp.
24 Dog tags
25 __-la-la
27 Mrs. Gorbachev
29 "Battle Cry" author
30 Visible evidence
33 Tapering flags
37 Wed in secret
38 Dumbfounds
39 Hold firmly
42 HOMES part
43 Renault import
45 Brazilian architect Oscar
47 Student monitor
50 In a little while
51 Toledo man
52 1051
53 Exp. stop
56 Pas' mates
58 Friend's pronoun
60 Ryan and Cara
62 Islamic republic
64 Required
66 Old Milano moola
67 Symbol of laziness
68 English composer
69 Danny or Stubby
70 Fundamental principle
71 "__ we forget..."

DOWN
1 Mojave flora
2 Not sotto voce
3 Easy wins
4 LePew of cartoons
5 Skin tones
6 Madison Ave. output
7 Massive unrest
8 Enticers
9 One of the Indigo Girls
10 Barcelona gold
11 Required
12 Sunoco rival
13 Walter __ Army Medical Center
18 To an extreme
22 "The __ of the Ancient Mariner"
26 Star: pref.
28 Ill temper
29 Dangerous
31 Mayberry lad
32 Painter Jan van der __
33 Insect's feeler
34 Spouted pitcher
35 Required
36 __ Diego
40 Where Anna met the king
41 Small source of illumination
44 1996 Tony winner
46 Greek destiny
48 Additional emcee
49 High-pitched
53 Sleep soundly?
54 Gulls' cousins
55 So far
56 Moo juice
57 Puccini piece
59 North Carolina university
61 Lat. list-ender
63 Born in Metz
65 Social follower?

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	A	S	■	H	E	F	T	■	B	I	M	B	O
C	O	L	A	■	A	G	A	R	■	I	S	O	L	A
T	W	E	N	T	Y	O	N	E	■	G	A	T	E	S
S	E	E	S	A	W	■	G	A	D	A	B	O	U	T
■	■	■	■	N	A	B	■	D	I	M	E	■	■	■
B	A	C	C	A	R	A	T	■	V	I	L	E	S	T
O	L	L	A	■	D	R	U	P	E	S	■	N	E	W
R	I	A	T	A	■	B	R	O	■	T	A	S	T	E
E	N	S	■	F	U	S	I	L	S	■	L	U	T	E
D	E	H	O	R	N	■	N	A	P	O	L	E	O	N
■	■	■	B	I	D	E	■	R	A	M	■	■	■	■
C	H	A	R	C	O	A	L	■	N	I	C	E	T	Y
L	O	G	I	A	■	S	O	L	I	T	A	I	R	E
A	S	H	E	N	■	E	R	I	E	■	A	R	E	A
W	E	A	N	S	■	S	E	L	L	■	N	E	E	R

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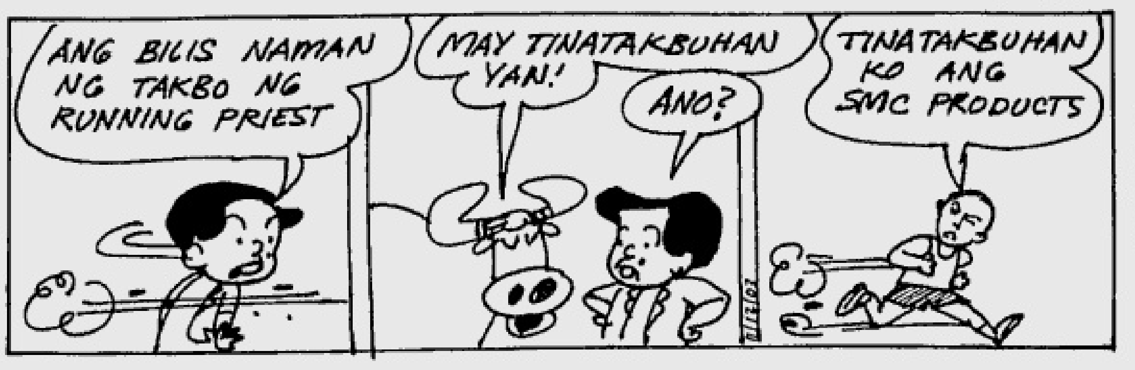
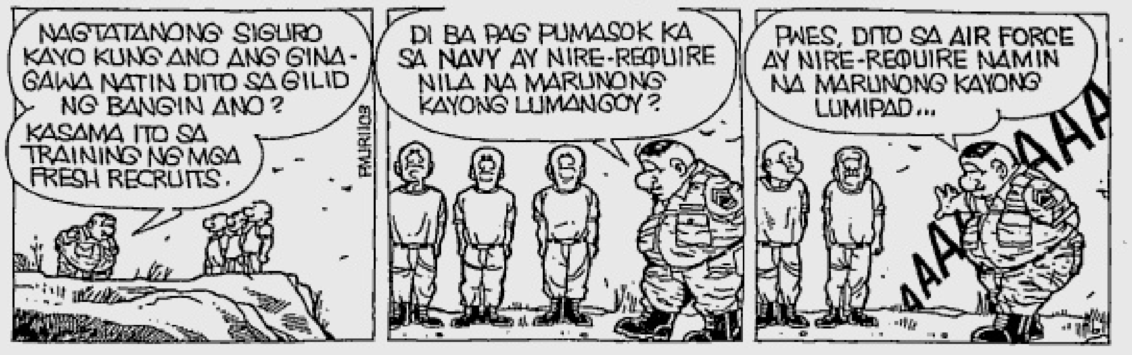
11/12/03

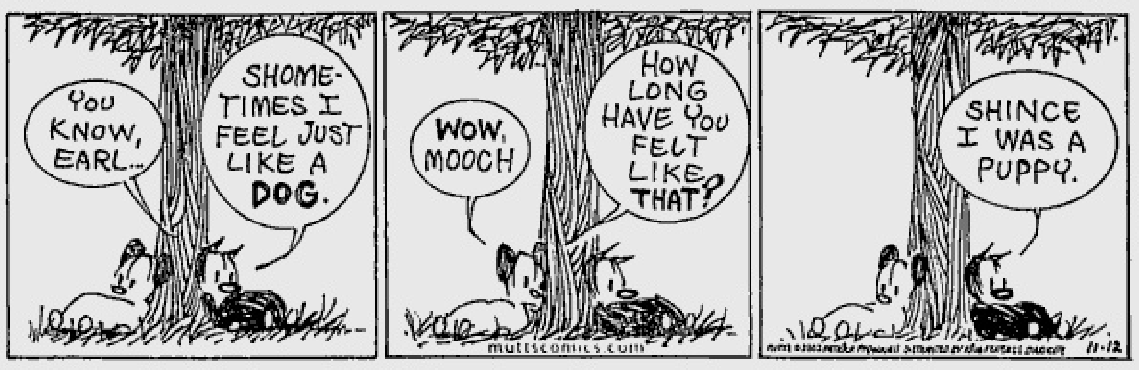
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


ANG BILIS NAMAN NG TAKBO NG RUNNING PRIEST
MAY TINATAKBUHAN YAN!
ANO?
TINATAKBUHAN KO ANG SMC PRODUCTS

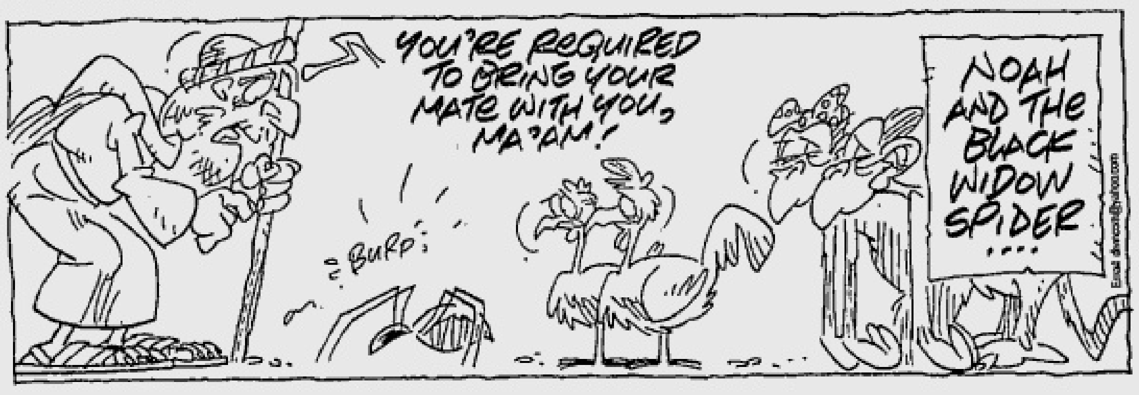
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAGTATANONG SIGURO KAYO KUNG ANO ANG GINAGAWA NATIN DITO SA GILID NG BANGIN ANO?
KASAMA ITO SA TRAINING NG MGA FRESH RECRUITS.
DI BA PAG PUMASOK KA SA NAVY AY NIRE-REQUIRE NILA NA MARUNONG KAYONG LUMANGOY?
PWES, DITO SA AIR FORCE AY NIRE-REQUIRE NAMIN NA MARUNONG KAYONG LUMIPAD...
AAAAAAA

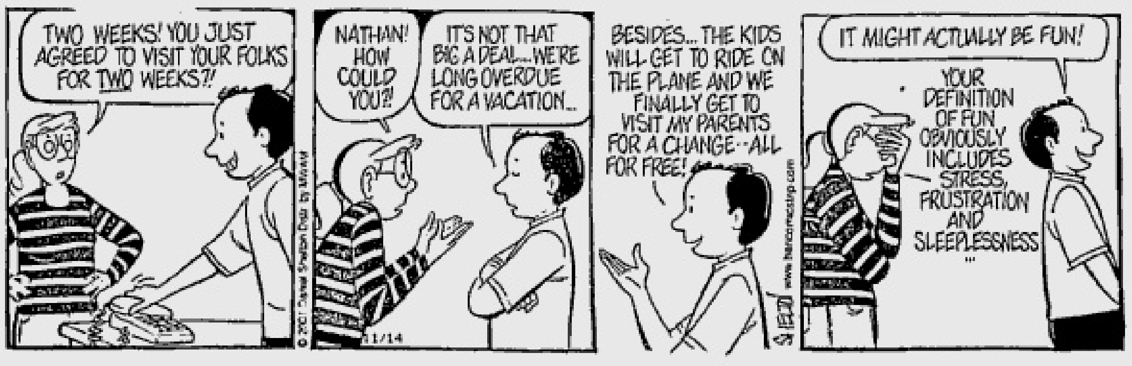
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YOU KNOW, EARL...
SHOMETIMES I FEEL JUST LIKE A DOG.
WOW, MOOCH
HOW LONG HAVE YOU FELT LIKE THAT?
SHINCE I WAS A PUPPY.
muttscomics.com

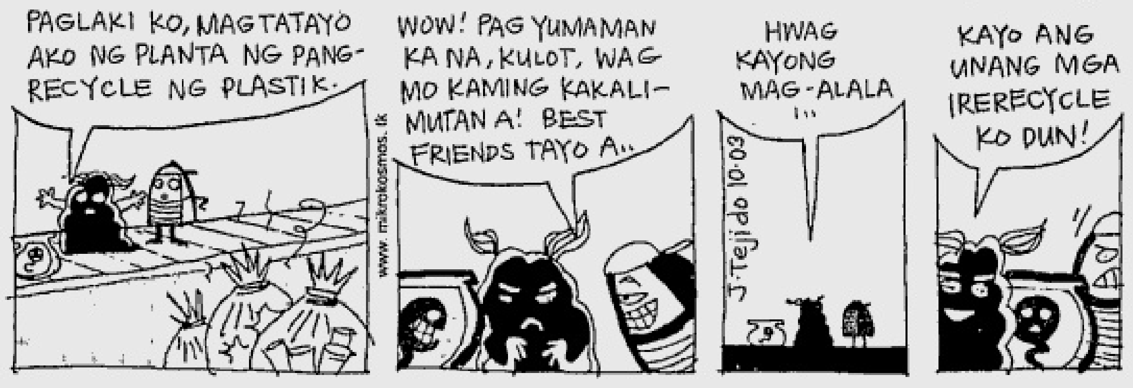
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


YOU'RE REQUIRED TO BRING YOUR MATE WITH YOU, MA'AM!
BURP
NOAH AND THE BLACK WIDOW SPIDER....

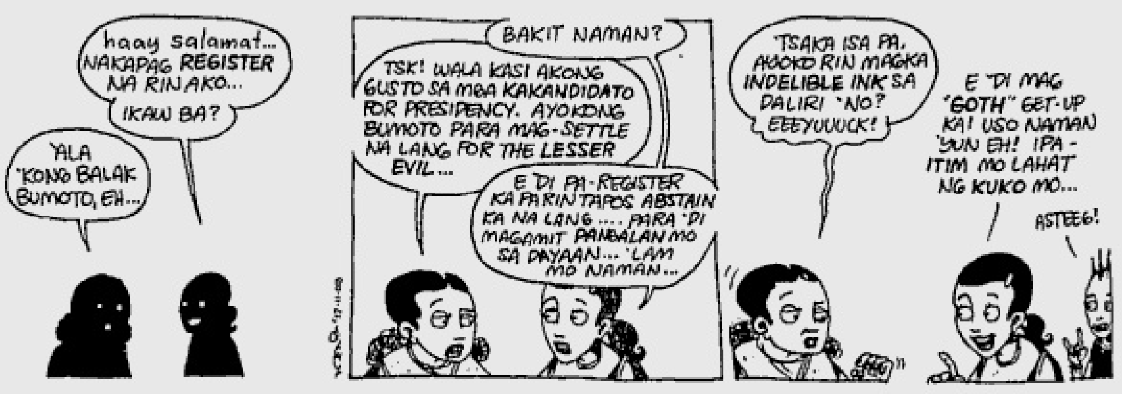
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


TWO WEEKS! YOU JUST AGREED TO VISIT YOUR FOLKS FOR TWO WEEKS?!
NATHAN! HOW COULD YOU?!
IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL... WE'RE LONG OVERDUE FOR A VACATION...
BESIDES... THE KIDS WILL GET TO RIDE ON THE PLANE AND WE FINALLY GET TO VISIT MY PARENTS FOR A CHANGE -- ALL FOR FREE!
IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE FUN!
YOUR DEFINITION OF FUN OBVIOUSLY INCLUDES STRESS, FRUSTRATION AND SLEEPLESSNESS...

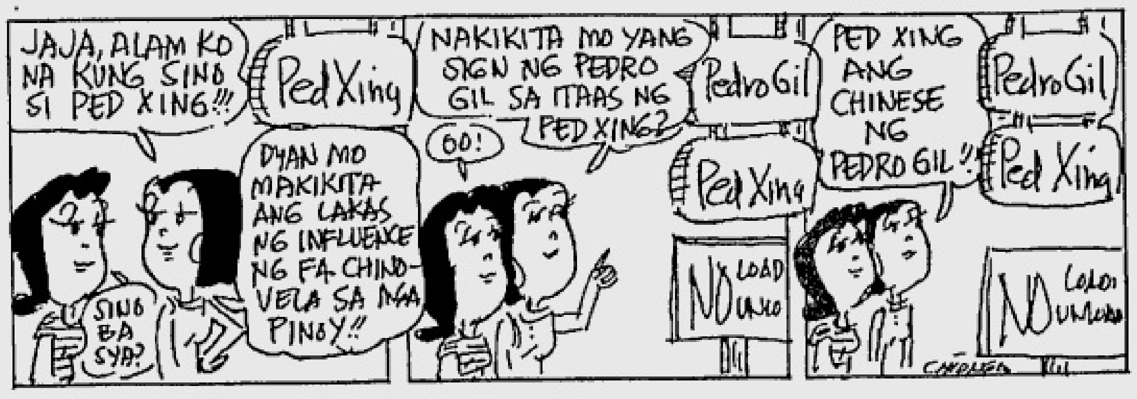
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAGLAKI KO, MAGTATAYO AKO NG PLANTA NG PANG-RECYCLE NG PLASTIK.
WOW! PAG YUMAMAN KA NA, KULOT, WAG MO KAMING KAKALIMUTAN A! BEST FRIENDS TAYO A...
HWAG KAYONG MAG-ALALA ...
KAYO ANG UNANG MGA IRERECYCLE KO DUN!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 10-03

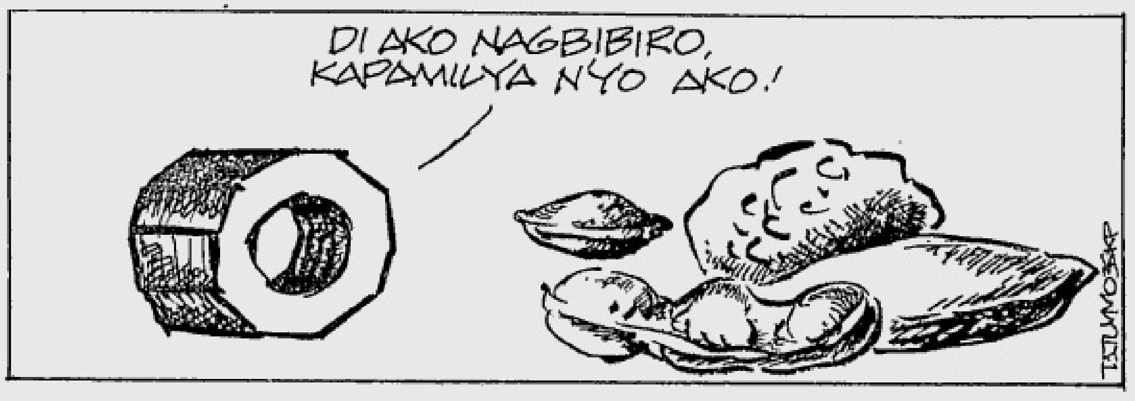
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


haay salamat... NAKAPAG REGISTER NA RIN AKO...
IKAW BA?
'ALA 'KONG BALAK BUMOTO, EH...
BAKIT NAMAN?
TSK! WALA KASI AKONG GUSTO SA MGA KAKANDIDATO FOR PRESIDENCY. AYOKONG BUMOTO PARA MAG-SETTLE NA LANG FOR THE LESSER EVIL...
E 'DI PA-REGISTER KA PA RIN TAPOS ABSTAIN KA NA LANG.... PARA 'DI MAGAMIT PANDALAN MO SA DAYAAN... 'LAM MO NAMAN...
'TSAKA ISA PA, AYOKO RIN MAGKA INDELIBLE INK SA DALIRI 'NO? EEEYUUUCK!
E 'DI MAG "GOTH" GET-UP KA! USO NAMAN 'YUN EH! IPA-ITIM MO LAHAT NG KUKO MO...
ASTEEG!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, ALAM KO NA KUNG SINO SI PED XING!!!
Ped Xing
SINO BA SYA?
DYAN MO MAKIKITA ANG LAKAS NG INFLUENCE NG FA CHINOVELA SA MGA PINOY!!
NAKIKITA MO YANG SIGN NG PEDRO GIL SA ITAAS NG PED XING?
OO!
Pedro Gil
Ped Xing
NO LOADING UNLOADING
PED XING ANG CHINESE NG PEDRO GIL!!
Pedro Gil
Ped Xing
NO LOADING UNLOADING
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI AKO NAGBIBIRO, KAPAMILYA NYO AKO!
TATUMOSAP

A FAN reportedly bought one of these passport-invites for P15,000

love ko bench

love ko bench

bench/bench

YAN *ANG* CRUSH *KO!*
Gorgeous at any angle

'I love you, Jerry!'

From page D1

the guy for his professionalism!

As other members of the press lined up for a chance to ask him one question (yup, one niggardly question), I happily clicked away. I knelt as far as the railings would allow me to, just to get my best shots. That was until one of the security personnel tapped me on the shoulder to tell me I was way past the boundaries.

A minute of bliss

Seeing that the line was getting shorter, I finally stood at the end of it. When it was my turn to ask a question, my whole body went numb. I was lightheaded; I had no idea how I should pose my question!

I held the mic tightly, summoned up all my courage and introduced myself to him. Then I told him that I loved him. Our gazes locked together for at least five seconds (which was eternity to me), before he smiled and replied, "Thank you."

Pandemonium all around. I swear, I had no idea where I got the strength to remain standing there, with my knees all ready to buckle beneath me. In fact, I had no idea how I was able to finish my real question (about his shopping habits, but who cared?) without breaking into more confessions of love and proposals of marriage.

Just like that, and my one-minute conversation with Jerry Yan ended.

Later that night, both "Saksi" and "Frontpage" showed clips of the presscon—and of me making my declaration. That was how I learned I wasn't standing still at all when I talked to him. I was, in fact, dancing.

Well, that's how life is for me as a fan. Meeting Jerry was the dream. Kissing his posters every night is the reality.

The author is the founder of Flowing Stars, an F4 fan club.

E-mail the author at mayfairinmanila@yahoo.com.

ALASKA
ALASKA SWEETENED CONDENSED FILLED MILK
ALASKA EVAPORATED FILLED MILK

ALASKA
ALASKA MILK CORPORATION

"Itataya ko ba ang pangalan ko?"

Pagkaing hinahain mo, dala ang pangalan mo.
At pagmamahal.
Itataya mo ba naman ang sustansya't sarap?
Sa Alaska, sigurado ka.
Sa pangalan pa lang.

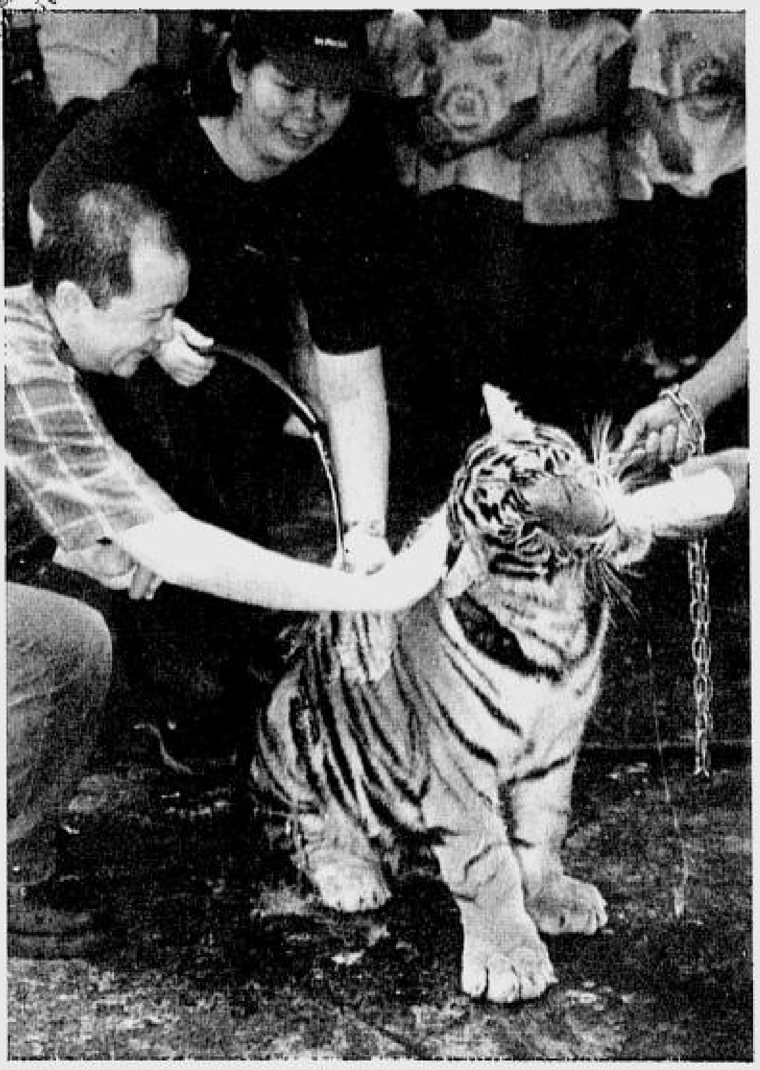
Wala pa rin tatalo sa Alaska.

TEMPORARILY YOURS

THE AUTHOR helps shampoo Cheesecake with Sunsilk.

Close encounter with wild things

As animal caregiver for a day, I got to administer vitamins to a grizzly and bathe a 180-kilo snake



FROM about 100,000, Bengal tigers now number only about 2,500.

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Randy Hormillosa

MANNY Tangco, owner and head zookeeper of Malabon Zoo and Aquarium, realized animals were in serious trouble when he was only five years old. Brought to the forest by his parents on a hunting expedition, he saw trees being burned and cut down. "Where would these beautiful animals stay?" he asked. The young Tangco had a copy of Noah's Ark with him, and he resolved to make his own Noah's Ark and protect the animals.

Years later, with a degree in BS Management Engineering from the Ateneo de Manila University, Tangco worked for companies like Citibank and Philamlife. Travels in connection with his jobs showed him the continuing destruction of precious animal habitats and rekindled his desire to build a zoo that would protect animals and encourage others to do the same.

Now 46, Tangco and his family have around 600 animals in their backyard zoo. His children, Emil, Martin and Carlos, participate actively in caring for the animals. A newborn animal is cared for in their bedrooms then released into their cages to mingle with the others when they are old enough.

I had a chance to spend quality time with the Tangco's menagerie one Saturday, giving food, vitamins and baths. The zoo has no strict requirements for keepers, although Tangco prefers people aged 20 and above. A college degree is optional as the only real requirement is a love for animals.

Beary wonderful

I fed and bathed the animals and took young students on an educational tour. My first encounter was with a grizzly bear with the unlikely name "Ocho-ocho" and a black Himalayan bear called "Katya."

Each animal has two cages—one separating it from the zookeeper, and the other separating the zookeeper from visitors. There was only about three feet of space for us to do our chores.

In feeding the bears, a vitamin pill was inserted into a piece of bread, which was held under the animal's nose until he ate it. Each bear gets three pills—multivitamins, calcium for the bones and cod liver oil for the fur. The bears are also given a whole coconut to help clean their teeth—they gnaw on the husk and rip the shell to pieces with their teeth helping dislodge food pieces stuck in their mouths.

Given the small space between zookeeper and bear, there is always some risk involved for the human. The bear had stern brown eyes and was a good foot-and-a-half taller than me.

Bathing 'Tigger'

I was then given the task of bathing a young Bengal tiger. Only two feet tall, the Tigger-like cub was led out of the cage with a metal leash. It was given a milk bottle while sir Manny and I shampooed its fur.

I let my fingers run through the copper-orange fur with jet black stripes, thinking how lucky I was to touch an endangered species. From about 100,000, Bengal tigers now number only about 2,500.

After giving vitamins to a couple of orangutans, my final task for the day was bathing a 180-kilogram golden snake ironically named "Cheesecake." The photographer noted that just two years ago, Cheesecake was only a few feet long and could be draped on a person's shoulders. Now, it would take at least four able-bodied people to carry the snake. It was strange to shampoo the scaly reptile with Sunsilk.

I have not been to a zoo since grade school so it was quite an experience to be bathing wild animals. I stopped worrying that the animals would attack, reassured by the zoo's strict safety measures despite limited funds. sir Manny said they always kept an eye on the cages and watched out for wandering kids. The zoo was also strict about not letting people feed the animals.

Funding

Money is always a problem for the zoo. Tangco asks various companies for donations, which are tax deductible. The money is spent on vitamins and food for the animals. Surprisingly, neighbors have not complained and are even proud that their community has a backyard zoo. Tangco says they are his best promoters.

He says he loves all his animals equally. "(They are all) my favorites, from the smallest bird to the biggest bear... I'm in heaven when I'm with them."

The zoo aims to inspire children and encourage them to do simple things to protect nature, like plant trees and dispose of garbage properly. Tangco hopes the kids will be "charmed" by the animals and become their defenders.

Malabon Zoo and Aquarium is on McArthur Highway, close to the Caloocan Monument. Call 3613064 or 0917-5387708.

Thanks to Richie Velarde.

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

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MUNCHKINS on a Stick P24
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2BU FASHION FREAKS

Grocery shopping for fashion lovers

Text by Pam Pastor and Jason Doplito
Photos by Jason Doplito

IF you're easily hypnotized by red, bold, "50-percent off" announcements, you're sure to be tempted to head to Designer Depot, an island of stylish clothing and trendy accessories.

Designer Depot has 41 stores to satisfy anyone's fashion crisis. It wouldn't hurt to take your time and find out which of these stores can transform you into a fashion plate.

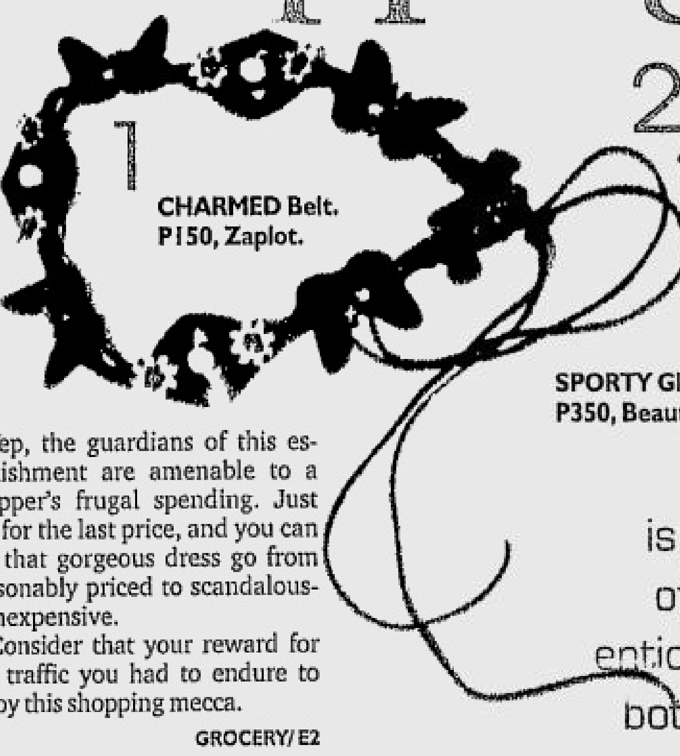
Here you've got funky tops, shoes, denims and accessories. Some are branded, others are not. But that doesn't matter. In this day and age, logos are out. Individuality is more important, and there's no better excuse to mix and match than the eclectic array of stores in Designer Depot.

And if that isn't enough, you can haggle too!

Yep, the guardians of this establishment are amenable to a shopper's frugal spending. Just ask for the last price, and you can see that gorgeous dress go from reasonably priced to scandalously inexpensive.

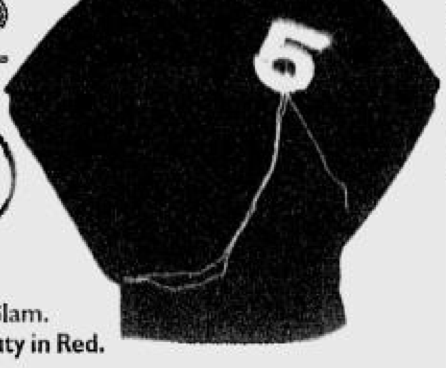
Consider that your reward for the traffic you had to endure to enjoy this shopping mecca.

GROCERY/ E2



1

CHARMED Belt. P150, Zaplot.



2

SPORTY Glam. P350, Beauty in Red.

Designer Depot is an oasis in the middle of busy Quirino Avenue, enticing passersby with its bottomless bargain finds

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
Metro Manila's SEXiEST Grand Finals 2003 Men & Women Search
SEXIEST MODEL SEARCH
The country's upcoming mannequins are out to strut their stuff. Catch Metro Manila's Sexiest Men and Women model search as they walk down the runway at Robinsons Malls. This is one event that's surely in vogue.
ROBINSONS Malls

BLACK medium-sized sling bag, HK$15

Bargain-hunting in Hong Kong with style

STORY ON PAGE E3

Splurging in Hong Kong

By Samantha Ang
2bU! Correspondent

FROM designer brands like Prada and Louis Vuitton to their faux counterparts; Baleno, TMX and Miss Sixty to the lesser-known but equally good brands—Hong Kong has everything. Try naming an international brand it doesn't have and you'll get a headache.

Because of the whirlwind of names, items and shops, shopping may be difficult and tedious. But it all depends on where to go and what to look for.

For instance, you could buy a seemingly unique top that costs around three digits in one place and find an almost identical one worth much less in another. Talk about frustration!

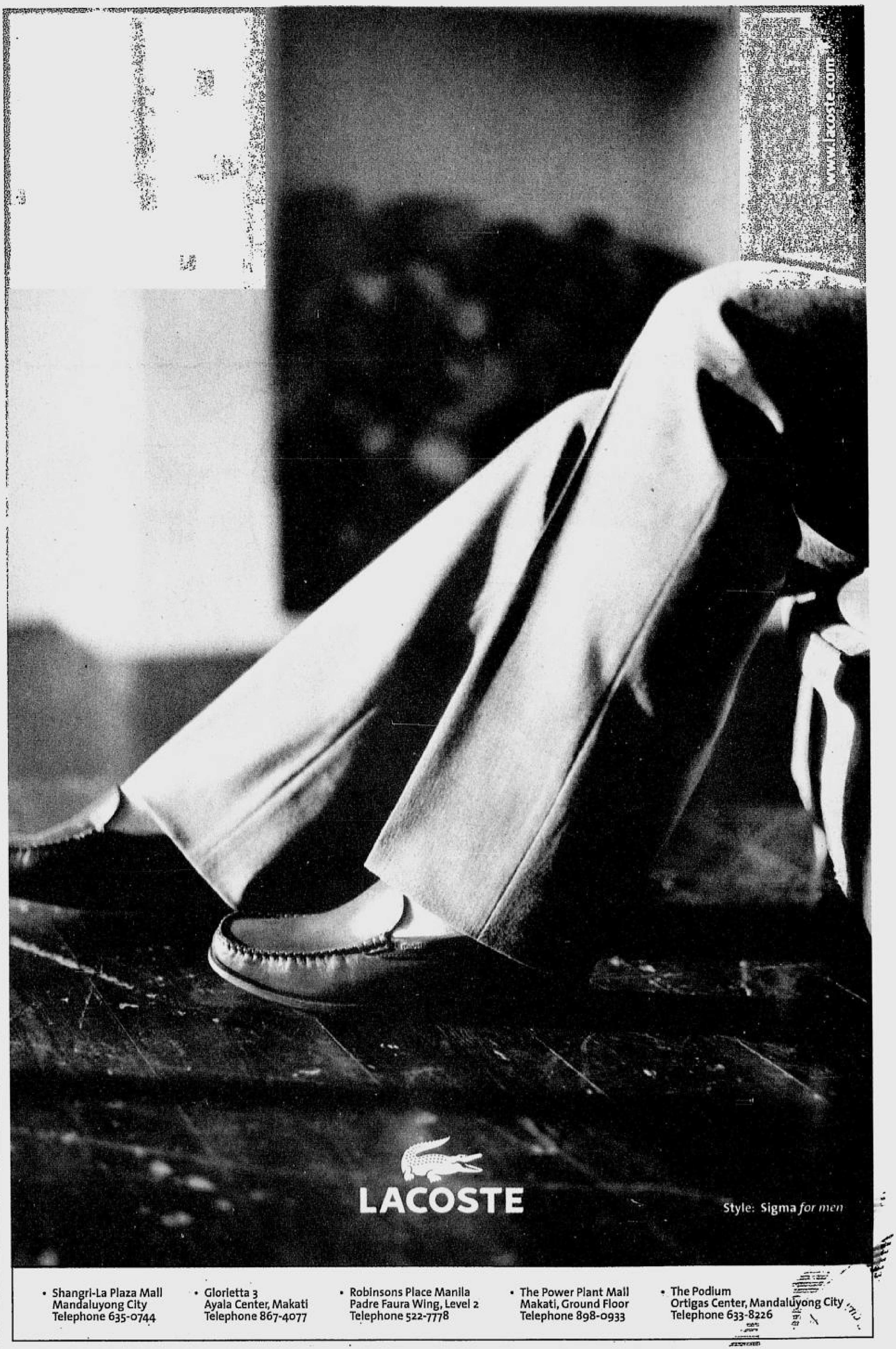
So if you want to get the most out of your money and still get the latest fashion trends, try checking out these must-go places around the city before hitting those expensive malls:

Causeway Bay

One day simply isn't enough to finish the row of shops in Causeway Bay. Granted, the products are a bit pricey, but

SPLURGING/ E3

IN FASHION, one of the popular shops along Granville Road



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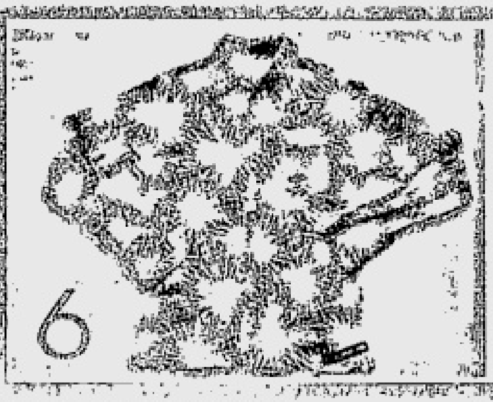
  Telephone 635-0744
- Glorietta 3
  Ayala Center, Makati
  Telephone 867-4077
- Robinsons Place Manila
  Padre Faura Wing, Level 2
  Telephone 522-7778
- The Power Plant Mall
  Makati, Ground Floor
  Telephone 898-0933
- The Podium
  Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
  Telephone 633-8226

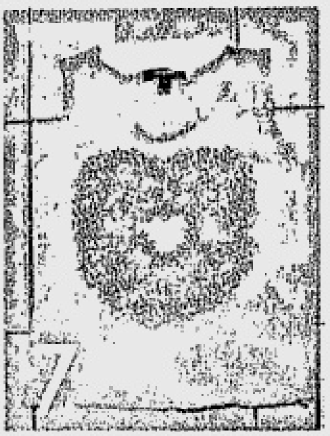
PSYCHEDELIC CHIC. P250, Marked Down Surplus

A GIRL can never have enough jean jackets. P400, Duh?!

SPACE ODYSSEY. Go intergalactic with this silver jacket. P350, Duh?!



WORK of art. P520, Duh?!



LOVE ME. Be pretty in this girly top. Comes in various colors. P75, Marked Down Surplus

Grocery shopping for fashion lovers

TRIBAL PRINCESS. P290, Zaplot.

From page E1

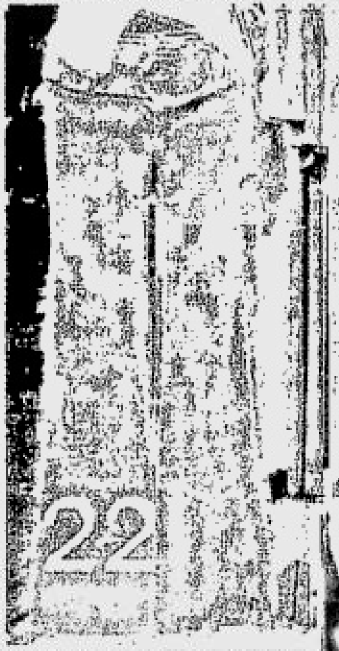
And there are stores for guys, too. Whether you're a plain geek, a hip-hop guy or clubber, you can transform into Justin Timberlake or Sean Paul with a few trips to the men's stores.

Finally, when the daunting number of shops wears you down, give yourself a break by dining at any of the food stalls that dot the place. With everything from street foods to tacos and yummy dim sum, it's easy to forget you were hunting for clothes in the first place.

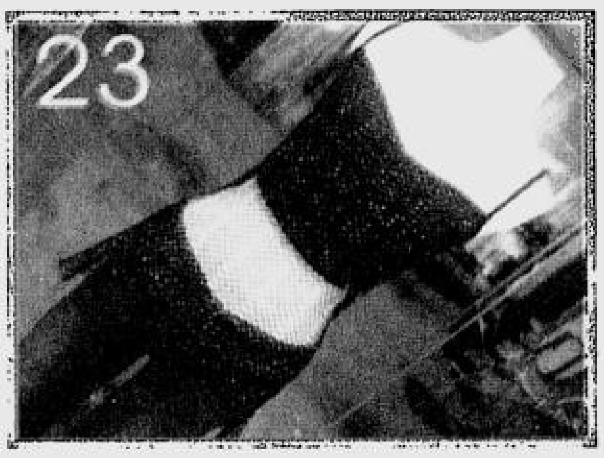
On this page are the Fashion Freaks' Designer Depot finds.

Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your store or see your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com

In this day and age, logos are out; individuality is more important

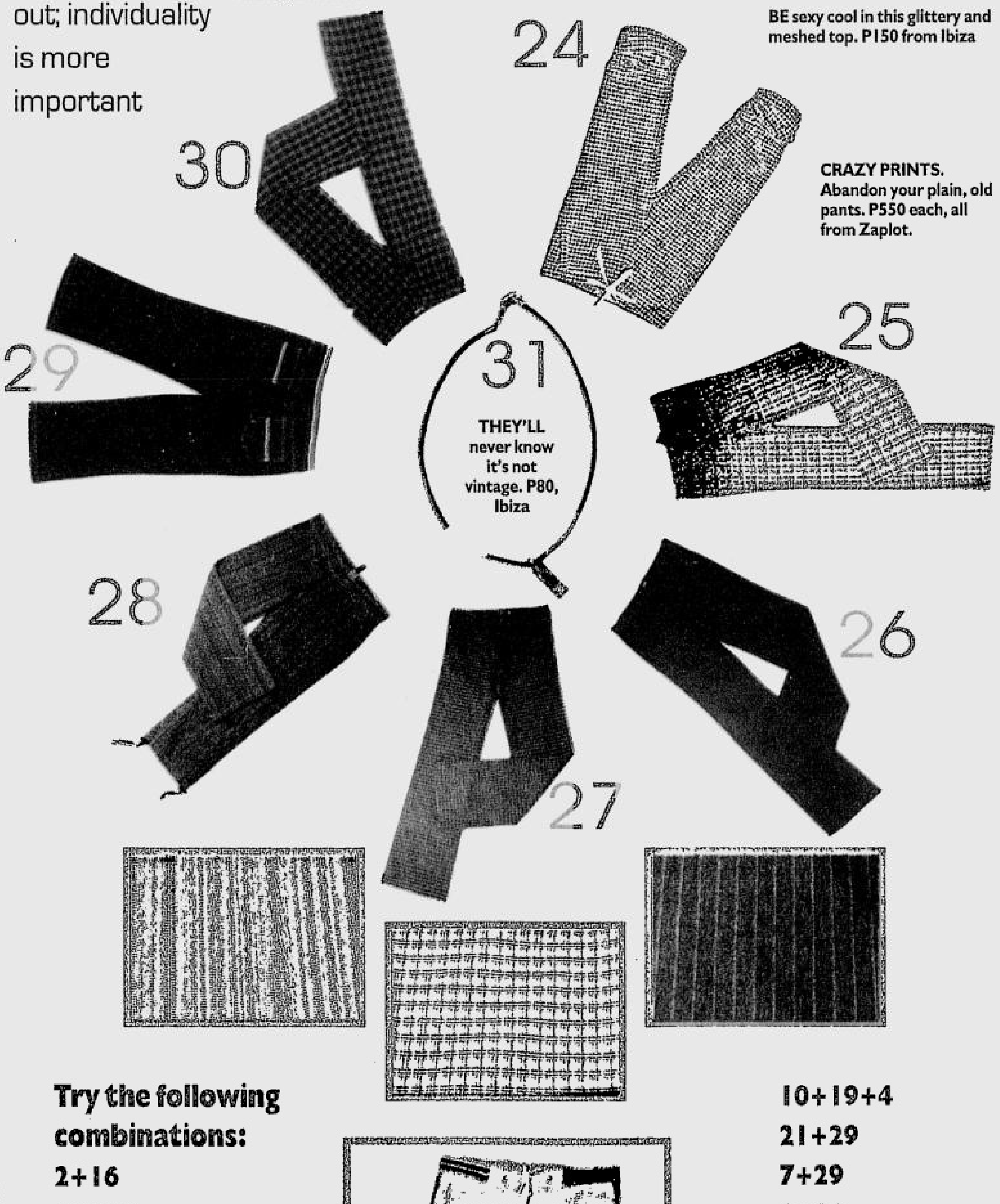


WIDE belts, despite the matching color, make for an interesting statement. P560 (with jeans), Ibiza



BE sexy cool in this glittery and meshed top. P150 from Ibiza

BE the dancing sun in this top. P75, Marked Down Surplus

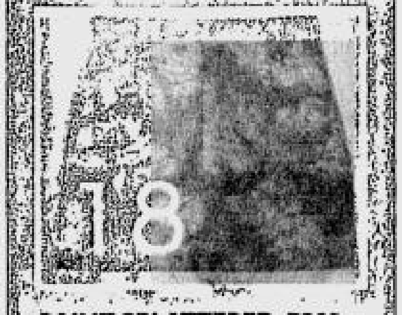


CRAZY PRINTS. Abandon your plain, old pants. P550 each, all from Zaplot.

THEY'LL never know it's not vintage. P80, Ibiza

DOODLE DUDS. P300, Zaplot

LADY in red. Skirt, P299.75, Urban Outlet



PAINT-SPLATTERED. P200, Duh?!

Try the following combinations:

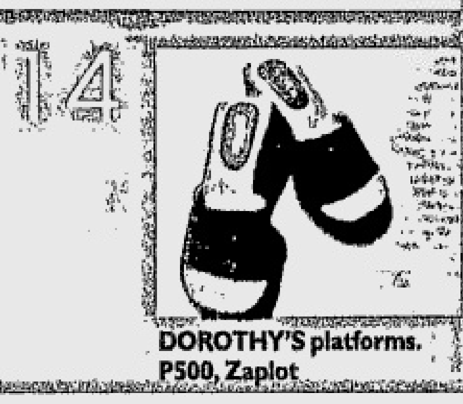
2+16
13+20
18+21
11+29

10+19+4
21+29
7+29
9+16
5+17
26+21

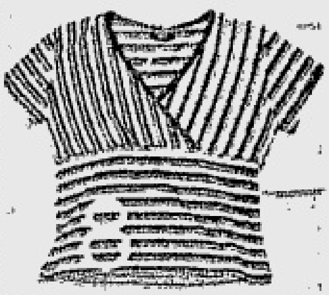
EYELET DELIGHT. Dainty prints for a fine lady

SNOW WHITE. P500, Zaplot

DRAWSTRING pants for a casual look, P550, Zaplot

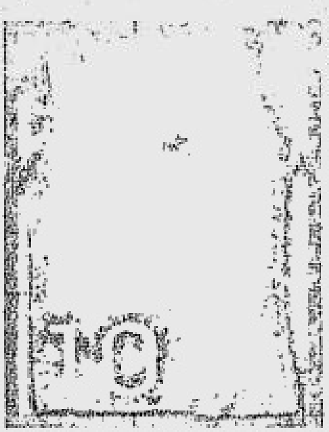


DOROTHY'S platforms. P500, Zaplot



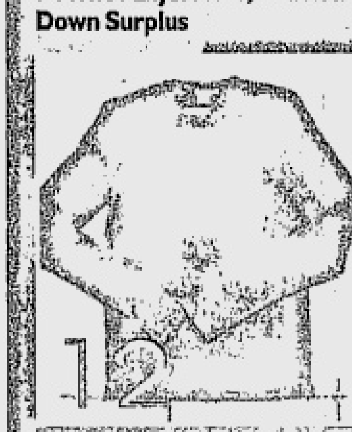
SUPER STRIPES. P250, Marked Down Surplus

SLEEVELESS top with drawstrings to show off your curves. P380, Beauty in Red



MANY stores in Designer Depot have special racks displaying countless tops that go for around P100 each.

FOR hot days. P220, Marked Down Surplus

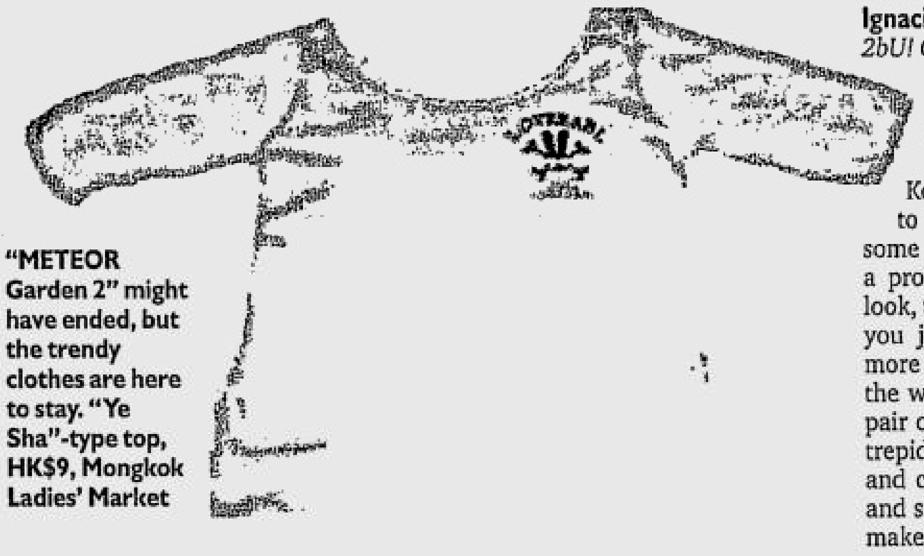


STOCK up on basics. This long-sleeved shirt comes in seven colors. P150, Marked Down Surplus.

SHINING, shimmering, splendid. P400, Runway

GREEN lollipop jacket, HK$20 (left); Top Star sneakers, HK$50 (top)

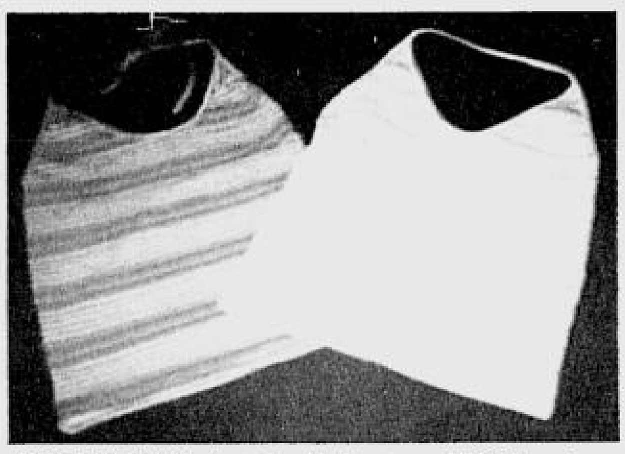
Bargain-hunting in Hong Kong with style



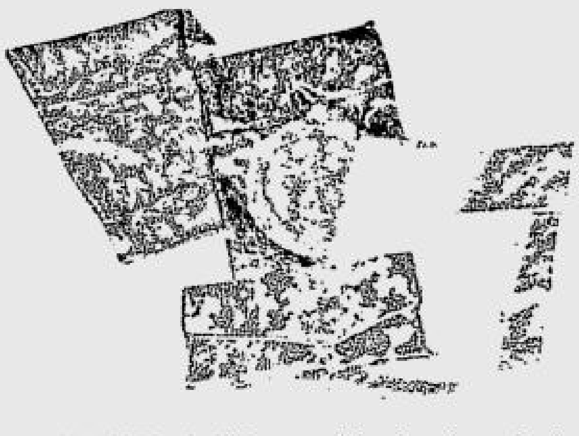
"METEOR Garden 2" might have ended, but the trendy clothes are here to stay. "Ye Sha"-type top, HK$9, Mongkok Ladies' Market

Text and photos by Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

OKAY, so it is a major disappointment to find out that clothes in Hong Kong aren't as cheap as they used to be. Then again, hunting for some real bargain items are not really a problem... if you know where to look, that is. Even with a tight budget, you just may find out that there's more to the bustling city than meets the wallet. Armed with a map and a pair of sturdy running shoes, this intrepid shopaholic explores the nooks and crannies of downtown Kowloon and scores some funky finds that can make a seasoned haggler proud.



EYE CANDY. Classic striped halter tops, HK$10 each, Mongkok Ladies' Market



"*PASALUBONG ko, ha?*" For your *kikay* loved ones back home, you can't go wrong with these ubiquitous Oriental-print accessories. Mini-sling bags and wallet, HK$10 each, from Ribbon Emporium

Splurging in Hong Kong

Some shopping tips when you get to the undisputed fashion paradise

From page E1

that's because the area is one of the more famous tourist districts in Hong Kong. This is where the big malls like Sogo, Seibu and Times Square are located. Definitely the place to go if you're looking for that classy European designer.

If brand names don't matter much to you, there's a whole street of shops waiting outside of Sogo, offering a wide variety of fashionable apparel in more affordable prices.

Also, try to drop by Causeway Place and the Island Shopping Center, two "mini malls" just around the corner, and you'll be surprised at the products and prices they offer.

If you venture out a little, you'll find a small street market in Jardine's Crescent near Times Square that's worth a look-see.

Tsim Sha Tsui

This is a personal favorite because here, one can get the latest fashions in very low prices.

Starting from Cameron Road to Carnarvon then to Granville, the shops just seem to go on and on. The displays are eye-catching and the place is always filled with people, especially teenagers, at night.

Before you go buying everything in one shop though, a word of advice: Don't forget that there are other stores that might be selling the same item in a lower price, so look around first.

Patience is the key, but don't take too long on deciding on a certain item. Items come and go so fast here that you may not find the same outfit the next day.

Sham Shui Po

Think Divisoria. The people who go here are usually wholesalers, but there are also a lot of retail buyers.

The numerous shops located along Cheung Sha Wan Road almost always sell in bulks, so if you're thinking of starting a "buy and sell" business (if you don't already have one), this is the place for you. Of course, you'll get them way cheaper than the usual.

Many stores accept single purchases, but remember to ask the owner first, lest you spot the perfect jeans and suffer the disappointment of finding out that they're not being sold by piece.

And, don't forget to browse through the boxes or racks of cheap clothes displayed outside these shops. They don't seem much, but who knows if buried somewhere beneath the pile of clothes is the very item you're looking for.

UKAY-UKAY in Sham Shui Po

Advice

Feel free to explore and don't limit yourself to the places you know and have gone to or the ones mentioned above.

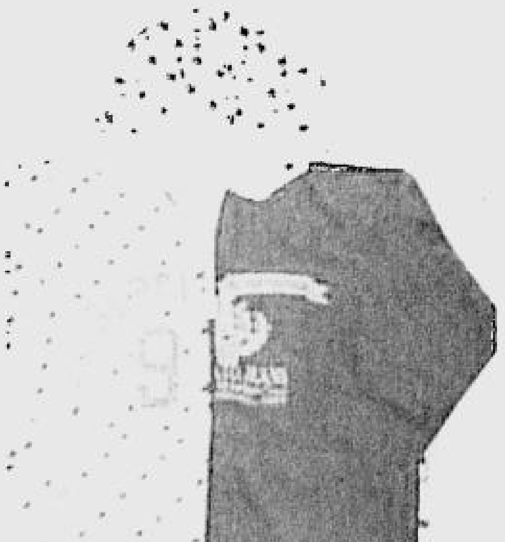
After all, trying to summarize the shopping Mecca of Asia in one article is trying to fit an elephant inside a mouse hole.

So when in Hong Kong, don't be afraid to splurge, splurge and splurge. Chances are, it'll be worth it.

Oh, and most important, always remember to bring a very comfy pair of shoes. Trust me on this.

THE BODY SHOP

SOGO and the Island Shopping Center in Causeway Bay



SEEING STARS. Red hoodie, HK$10

THESE pop watches are hot, hot, hot. About HK$20 each

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Rich, bright girl scares off guys

Niño Mark Sablan
& September Mabino

DEAR Mark and Sep,

I am the only child of a Chinese couple. My parents provide me all that I need and want. I had my own car at 17, have credit card, travel abroad at least once a year, and [have] the latest models of cell phone and Palm. My parents are known in the community (my dad donated three hospital rooms) and I am thankful that they are my parents.

[In return] I try my best to make them proud of me by doing well in school (I'm in the top five percent of the class), getting a scholarship abroad, starting my own business (I earn about P15,000 a month) and being an active member/officer of socio-civic organizations (Lions Club, Drugwatch).

But deep inside I know I'm just like any other girl my age. I sometimes cut classes to hang out with friends. I drink alcoholic beverages.

[But] one of my guy friends told me: "*Di ka ma*-reach." When I asked him to explain, he said his friend (my crush) was afraid to court me because of my achievements. [He] enumerated basically the material things I had—my academic achievements, and my popularity in school and community.

I don't think those are essential in life, but people notice me because of those things. Do I give up what I'm doing right now just so guys won't be afraid of me? I never had any boyfriend. I don't know if guys are really that insecure [about] girls (like me). Do I scare guys away by getting high grades?

TRINKET

You have your own beliefs (about what is essential in life, etc.), but remember that other people have theirs, too, and you should respect them the way they respect yours. You can't separate the material possessions, your achievements and your popularity from what you are. All these things made you into the person you are right now, and even if you were suddenly stripped of them, you would still be the same old you, somehow.

You do not have to join some Operation: Make the Whole Barangay Super Rich, although that is a fab project for the filthy rich out there. You don't have to play dumb or stop improving yourself in all aspects. What you should do is start thinking that it is not your fault that you are smart, rich and benevolent. Maybe your social circle is limited to those who are intimidated easily, but there are others out there. There are drool-worthy boys out there who are as smart, rich and benevolent as you—maybe even more (which you might find intimidating).

Always remember that, despite the world's efforts to make everyone equal, the fact is there will always be greater and lesser people than you. Looking for a special someone or even a *barkada* is just a matter of searching for those who, as much as possible, meet your requirements.

Don't settle for anything less. Be patient and believe that there is someone out there for you.

MARK

Schoolboys are generally dumb and insecure. That is a fact of life every smart girl should know.

Schoolboys do admire self-made girls... but only from afar. The reason could be they dread making a major effort to get smart girls to notice them, listen to their stories and laugh at their corny jokes.

High school and even college kids are very aware of how much they still lack in intelligence, maturity and finances. So if someone their age is able to experience and buy most of the things they could only dream of, as well as show promise of achieving more in the future, they get intimidated. They are reminded of what they have not achieved yet, and may never accomplish.

And if Little Mr. Insecure also happens to be Little Mr. Macho, you can forget about waiting for him to approach you with his little vulnerable and immature heart, even in friendship. Unless he's a user.

I don't think you should do some major personality overhaul just because of what others think. Ever heard of the girl who said, "Don't hate me because I'm beautiful?" Adopt a similar, if less conceited, mentality. Why should you apologize for the things you have and get when you obviously work hard for them? The only important thing to remember is to remain nice, because nice-ness is a great equalizer.

Whether you're as rich as Midas or as poor as a church mouse, no one can throw dirt at you if you're a nice person.

As for not having a boyfriend, you can stop worrying about it. If you are the prize catch that your description says you are, he is going to find you. And he will think you are wonderful.

SEPTEMBER

Too rich? E-mail the not-so-rich authors at markandsep@yahoo.com

Win tickets to Limpbizkit concert!

ARE you wild enough to slam, rock and body surf at the much-awaited blood pressure-boosting live experience of the year?

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Tell us the craziest and most outrageous thing you've done in a concert! One lucky winner will win two tickets each week, starting Nov. 19-Dec. 3.

You can send us your story via e-mail at contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph

Include your name, age, address and cell phone number. The winners will be published in 2bU! every Wednesday.

Limpbizkit tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets at very affordable prices: Premiere, P1650; Deluxe, P950; and P550. Call 9115555 or 3735734.

"LimpBizkit Live in Manila" is presented by Tribal Streetwear in cooperation with Magic 89.9 DWTM, 103.5 K-Lite, 99.5 RT, RX 93.1, NU 107 and Joey 92.3.

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IF you could be 2bU! editor for a day, what articles would you print?

A story on Hilary Duff? A feature on your favorite band? An interview with a young athlete? Comic book reviews? Recipes for disastrous dates?

We know you've got great ideas, so start sending them in.

Make our page your canvas. Make your own 2bU!

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Choosing a Design
November 7&14 (4:30-6:30PM)

Colors and Trends Forecast
November 8,13&15 (10:30AM-12:00NN)

Making Spaces Work for You
November 8&15 (2:00-4:00PM)

Feng Shui for Interior Design
November 8&16 (4:30-6:30PM)

Designing for the Senses
November 9&15 (4:30-6:30PM)

Delightful Lighting
November 9&16 (10:30AM-12:00NN)

The Art of Greening Interiors
November 9&16 (2:00-4:00PM)

Floral Arrangement
November 10 (2:00-6:00PM)

Color Rendering
November 13 (2:00-6:00PM)

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Story Below, Col. 2

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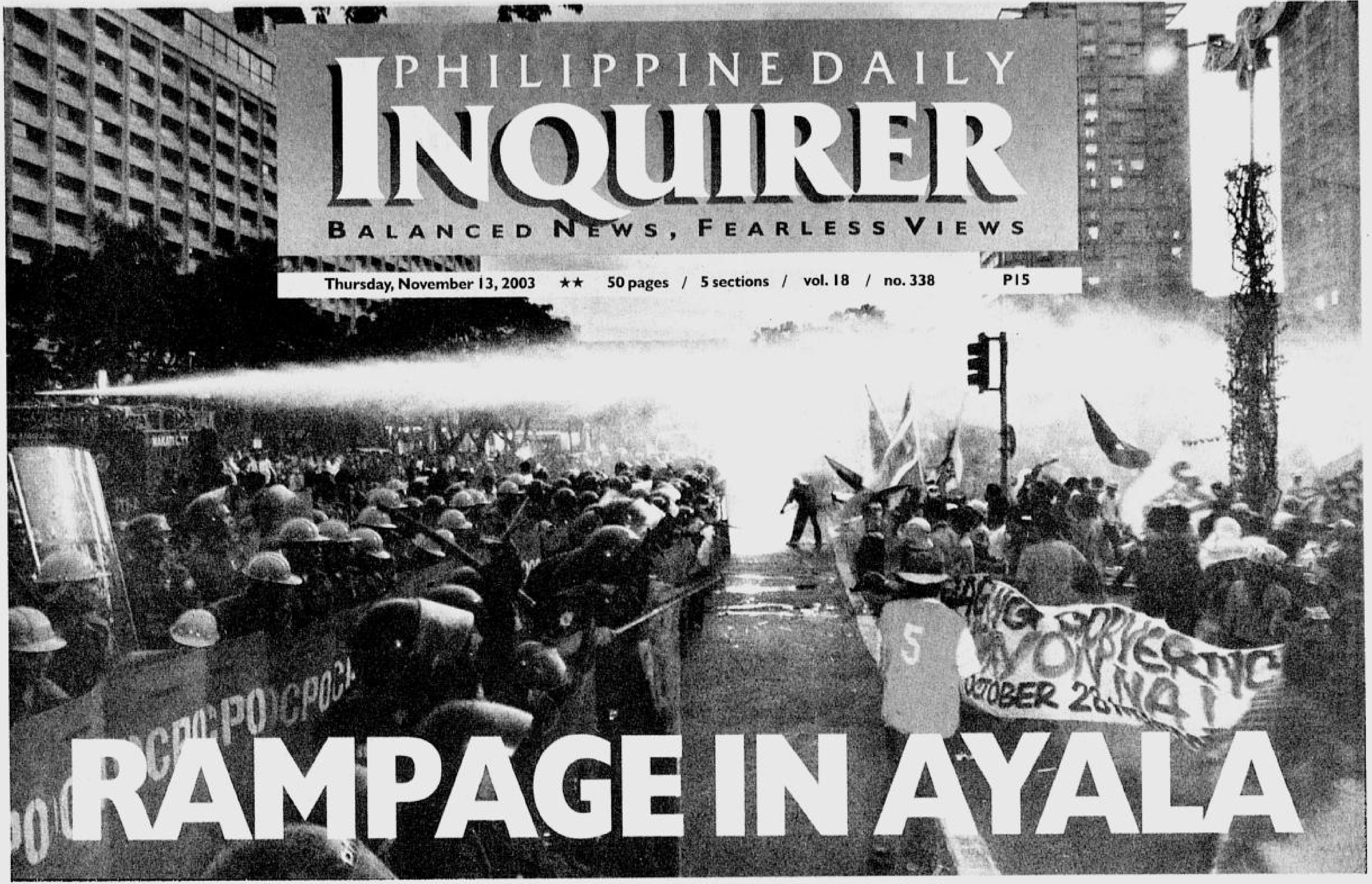
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, November 13, 2003 ★★ 50 pages / 5 sections / vol. 18 / no. 338 P15



RAMPAGE IN AYALA

SUDDENLY, the Central Business District turns into a battleground as anti-riot police use water cannons and tear gas to disperse alleged pro-Estrada protesters.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Police say Erap supporters were testing the waters for possible coup

By Margaux Ortiz, *Metro* and Christian V. Esguerra

THEY came shouting slogans, but when reporters asked them what it was they were marching in the streets for, they kept quiet or pointed to one another.

In a massive show of force, anti-administration protesters estimated at 10,000 to 20,000, many of them identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada, marched on the center of the country's main business district yesterday, demanding the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

But at around 5:40 p.m., Makati City riot police dispersed the protesters on Ayala Avenue with water cannons and tear gas—bringing the rally in the heart of the financial district to a sudden and violent end.

Protesters fled as riot police advanced toward them outside the Greenbelt shopping complex.

"This is a civil disturbance matter," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said. "They were given a permit to demonstrate until 5 p.m. After that, the police asked them to peacefully disperse because of rush-hour traffic in the financial district."

RAMPAGE/ A5

GMA seeks peace

Reconciliation with Erap, Danding, Marcoses

By Juliet Javellana

COME together.

The President yesterday sought anew to unite the nation, by launching an ambitious program of "total reconciliation" with all anti-government or opposition forces in the country.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said she wanted, by 2004 and "beyond," to mend fences with the Marcos family, deposed President Joseph Estrada, business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, putschist elements of the military, and opposition personalities.

Her plan, which she introduced at the 22nd National Prayer Breakfast at the Manila Hotel, includes the setting up of a Truth Commission to bring closure to the Marcos human rights and ill-gotten wealth cases.

She asked Archbishop Fernando Capalla, incoming president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, and Jesuit provincial superior Romeo Intengan to serve as her "negotiators" with the various groups.

GMA/ A8

TOTAL reconciliation with all the anti-government forces that continue to divide the nation is a vision President Macapagal introduces on Wednesday during the 22nd National Prayer Breakfast also attended by Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

VAL HANDUMON

Erap spurns offer; Imee welcomes it

By Armand Nocum, Carlito Pablo and Blanche S. Rivera

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday extended her hand to groups opposing her government, but it was spurned by some and welcomed by others.

In a telephone interview from Camp Capinpin, deposed President Joseph Estrada effectively rejected the offer: "No reconciliation can take place unless they set things right with the issue of impeachment against (Chief Justice Hilario) Davide. I will not be a party to a reconciliation unless they make it possible for me and Davide to take a lie detector test to show who among us robbed the people blind. I wonder why he was not impeached, why he did not want to be investigated while I who submitted myself to investigation was impeached."

But Rep. Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte), daughter of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, welcomed the offer on behalf of her family.

"My family also wants closure," Marcos said over the phone.

Marcos, who turned 48 yesterday, also joked that the President's gesture, "if it is indeed a heartfelt offer, is a good birthday gift to me."

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson also welcomed Ms Macapagal's offer, but immediately issued a challenge. Lacson said Ms Macapagal could start her reconciliation effort by putting a closure to the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case, despite its provisional dismissal yesterday. *(Story on Page A1.)*

"If there is a call for reconciliation and the call for reconciliation is sincere ... they could start it with the Kuratong Baleleng," Lacson, who is a principal accused in the sensational multiple-murder case, told the INQUIRER.

One of the two religious leaders whom Ms Macapagal had asked to serve as "negotiators" in the reconciliation effort, Jesuit provincial superior Romeo Intengan acknowl-

ERAP/ A8

12 bullets 'devastated' Villaruel

By Christine O. Avendaño Christian Esguerra and Juliet Javellana

A TOTAL of 12 bullets killed Panfilo Villaruel during last Saturday's siege on the airport control tower, police officials told a Senate hearing yesterday.

Four more bullets were pumped into Villaruel's aide, Lt. Ricardo Catchillar, moving some senators, including Senate President Franklin Drilon, to assail authorities for their "excessive use of force."

Senators were equally angered and surprised by the admission of police authorities that they had skipped normal standing operating procedures such as conducting paraffin tests on the members of the assault team as well as ballistic tests on the firearms used by the team.

Three Senate committees began yesterday its inquiry on the Nov. 8 takeover of the control tower of the Manila International Airport by Villaruel by determining whether the assault against Villaruel and Catchillar was done with the use of excessive force.

The inquiry began with Sen.

12 BULLETS/ A8

HA HA HA
HI HI HI
HO HO HO
LAUGHING
ALL THE WAY

Bellosillo goes out laughing

SUPREME Court Justice Josue Bellosillo did not spare his colleagues in the tribunal, including Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., from some good-natured jokes during a retirement gathering for him last Tuesday.

Bellosillo, who officially retires today on his 70th birthday, said he has learned many "lessons" during his 11-year stint at the court as an associate justice.

BELLOSILLO/ A9

New AFP force to defend Metro vs terror, Reds, not to fight coups—GMA

NOT for coup plotters but for terrorists and communists, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said to explain the military revival of the 6,000-strong National Capital Regional Command to defend Metro Manila.

Ms Macapagal issued the statement as leftist groups expressed concern that the reactivation of the NCRC was tantamount to a declaration that Metro Manila was under a state of siege.

Ms Macapagal said the NCRC under Maj. Gen. Alberto Braganza was "not an anti-coup unit as reported but an antiterrorism and anti-insurgency command that will serve as a deterrent against threats to do harm to our community."

She commended the Armed Forces for deploying the NCRC, saying the PNP "will now have a major partner in maintaining law and order in Metro Manila."

"We expect this to engender greater stability and peace of mind among our people," Ms Macapagal said.

The NCRC, consisting of units from the Army, Navy and Air Force, will be responsible for the defense of the 17 cities and towns of Metro Manila plus several municipalities in adjacent provinces, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said Tuesday.

"As we all know, the threat of terrorism and even insurgency is right here in Metro Manila," Abaya said.

In Zamboanga City, the spokesperson of the Southern Command said elite troops

NEW FORCE/ A6

QC judge dismisses Kuratong case vs Lacson, 33 others

By Tina Santos, Michael Lim Ubac and Volt Contreras

FINDING no probable cause that 11 suspected bank robbers were summarily executed, Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Maria Theresa Yadao yesterday dismissed the controversial Kuratong Baleleng case against opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson and 33 other co-accused.

A beaming Lacson called Yadao's decision a triumph of justice. He told reporters that Yadao's ruling proved that the wheels of justice still turned in the country. "I hope this is the end of my Calvary because it's been a long time," he said.

But government prosecutors vowed to appeal the decision. Should Yadao find no merit in the motion for reconsideration, the prosecution could question her decision before the Supreme Court.

The multiple murder case stemmed from the alleged summary execution in May 1995 of suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang, which was blamed for a series of bank robberies in Manila. Lacson and the others claimed that the victims died in a shootout on the Tandang Sora overpass in Quezon City.

Lacson headed an anti-crime task force at the time and later became the chief of the Philip-

QC/ A6

Second FrontPage

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will be experience cloudy skies with rains while Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Central Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/13/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Doctor tells Erap to lose weight and exercise

A GOVERNMENT doctor yesterday gave jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada some practical advice to get relief from the pain he is allegedly suffering from his arthritic knees—lose weight and exercise.

Testifying for the prosecution at the Sandiganbayan, Dr. Rafaelita Javier, head of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center's rehabilitation medicine department, said Estrada's knee problem could be traced to his inactivity and portly build.

The 66-year-old Estrada's advanced age was another factor, she said.

Javier said Estrada would suffer recurring back and knee pain unless he "loses weight or engages in [physical] activities."

Prosecutors presented the VMMC doctor to show that the hospital was capable of doing "pre-operative" therapy on Estrada.

Estrada, who is facing plunder and graft charges before the Sandiganbayan, has asked that he be allowed to go abroad to undergo knee replacement surgery.

And while waiting for the court's decision, he asked to be allowed to undergo "rehabilitation therapy" at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center or at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center, and to be allowed to live at his San Juan home while doing so.

Prosecutors have opposed the motion, saying the operation can be done here and that the therapy can be undertaken at VMMC.

They also asked that Estrada—who was recently transferred to Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal—be returned to his detention suite at the VMMC.

Villa-Ignacio branded as "sadistic" the defense lawyers' insistence that Estrada remain at Camp Capinpin with all his supposed health problems.

Javier said the VMMC's medical team was capable of performing the therapy that Estrada requires. She said that all their pre-operation therapies have resulted in successful knee operations. *Armand N. Nocum*

RP faces more economic woes, says Recto

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE PHILIPPINES, still barely recovering from the series of political upheavals, could plunge into another crisis—this time economic—should the Macapagal administration fail to address the ballooning foreign debt, which now stands at P3.258 trillion.

Sen. Ralph Recto issued this warning yesterday as he disclosed that the national government's debt grew by almost P1.3 billion a day since August last year.

"While we get embroiled in political bickering, while our attention is grabbed by political posturing, the debt meter, like a time bomb, ticks away," said Recto, chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. "Our debt grew by almost P53 million an hour."

Recto revealed that Congress would automatically appropriate P542.2 billion next year to meet interest obligations of P271.5 billion and principal payments of P270.7 billion.

He urged Malacañang, particularly finance and revenue officials, to work double time to arrest the ballooning debt, noting that the problem was compounded by the inability of revenues to meet government expenses.

Due to the shortfall in revenues, the national government had no recourse but to borrow to bridge the shortfall. "The budget deficit hit P217 billion last year, and is expected to breach the P200 billion-mark again this year," he said.

Recto revealed other dire economic figures:

- From Aug. 2002 to Aug. 2003, government liabilities increased by P463 billion. During the same period, the government accumulated P1.268 billion worth of debts everyday.
- Of the P3.258 trillion government debt as of the end of August, domestic borrowings accounted for P1.657 trillion compared to P1.408 trillion a year ago.
- The foreign debt component grew to P1.501 trillion in end-August from P1.287 trillion in the same month last year. "In short, we were borrowing P682 million a day domestically, and P586 million from abroad during that one-year period," Recto said.

To service its foreign debt, the government automatically appropriates a huge chunk of the yearly budget, which should have gone to vital social services, increase in salaries of government employees, infrastructure development and poverty alleviation, among others.

According to Recto, the monies involved in the Jose Pidal controversy involving First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and the Judiciary Development Fund controversy involving Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. were "miniscule compared to what has been added to our debt."

To emphasize the gravity of the debt crisis, Recto claimed that the matter was far greater than the ripples caused by the failed July Oakwood mutiny last July and the recent bloody takeover of the Naia control tower.

Refund P6B to consumers, Lopez-run Maynilad urged

THE FREEDOM from Debt Coalition is pressing Maynilad Water Services Inc. to refund consumers a total of P6 billion, which it says, the utility firm has illegally collected.

The amount represents the consumer-accelerated extraordinary price adjustment (EPA) that the Lopez-owned firm has been illegally collecting since January, according to the FDC.

Job Bordamonte of the FDC Water Campaign Team said the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System had allowed Maynilad to collect the EPA to recover its foreign exchange losses arising from the 1997 currency crisis for 18 months until December 2002.

But Maynilad continues to collect the EPA from its customers, according to Bordamonte.

The P6 billion in overcharging is different from the P6.77 billion in concession fees that the Paris-based International Court of Arbitration recently ordered Maynilad to pay the MWSS.

The concession fees are for the servicing of foreign debts that Maynilad has assumed from the MWSS after the utility firm won the concession to supply water to the western zone of Metro Manila. Maynilad, a subsidiary of Benpres Holdings Corp., has not been paying the concession fees since April 2001.

In December last year, Maynilad announced that it was ending its 25-year concession agreement with the MWSS after the government failed to approve its bid for a rate hike and an increase in water volumes in its projects.

Maynilad continues to charge customers for the payment of the concession fee through the foreign currency differential adjustment.

"They should not just stop charging consumers the EPA and the FCDA. They should give back the collections," Ana Maria Nemenzo, president of the FDC, said at a news conference yesterday.

The EPA and the FCDA, according to FDC estimates, account for about 40 percent of the monthly water bills of consumers.

"We recognize that this will entail another lengthy legal process. We don't expect Maynilad to just part with their millions in collections," said Jude Esguerra, a member of the FDC board.

The FDC said the International Arbitration Panel's decision ordering Maynilad to pay the government P6 billion in unpaid concession fees represented a major victory for the Filipino taxpayers.

"Maynilad's failure to pay concession fees since April 2001 has forced the government to borrow money to pay old MWSS loans, whereas it could have used Maynilad's payments for this purpose. Maynilad has exacerbated the debt problems of the country," Nemenzo said.

FDC asked President Macapagal-Arroyo not to give Maynilad any form of relief from having to honor the arbitration panel's deadline for the concessionaire to pay the concession fee.

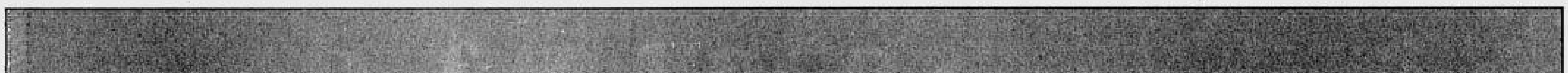
"We call on the President to stop her propensity to make deals with members of the business elite and desist from giving any kind of grace period for Maynilad," Nemenzo added.

But Angel S. Ong, chief operating officer of Benpres Holdings Corp., said the decision of the IAP was not yet final. "If the decision is final, there is still no basis for a refund to Maynilad customers. In fact, the panel's decision suggests a higher tariff will result," he said.

The FDC also called on the government to terminate the concession agreement with Maynilad after the concessionaire failed to deliver on its supposed commitment to invest more than P23 billion by the end of 2001 in capital expenditures.

"Today thousands of residents are served with unpotable water. With Maynilad's failure to translate more than six rate increases into the improvement and repairs of networks, more tragedies are waiting to happen," Nemenzo said.

"[The] Government has the duty to terminate the contract now. It should tell Maynilad to pay up and go now," she said. *By Norman Bordadora and Elena R. Torrijos*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Fil-Am mom honors son killed in Iraq

ARLINGTON, Virginia—The mother of a Philippine-born soldier killed while serving with the US Army in Iraq on Tuesday paid a Veterans Day tribute to a son she said laid down his life for "freedom and justice."

Sgt. Nino Dugue Livaudais, 23, born in Zambales province, was killed by a pregnant woman suicide bomber on April 3, and buried alongside generations of US war dead in Arlington National Cemetery.

Filipino-American veterans staged a vigil at the graveside, and the resting places of other comrades who fell in other US conflicts, as a somber President George W. Bush marked Veterans Day with the US embroiled in war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Nino fought and died on April 3, 2003 to save his brothers and to defend our freedoms that we enjoy today," said his mother Divina Livaudais, in a statement read by Filipino American veterans at his graveside.

Livaudais first arrived in America with his parents aged two, but never left his Philippine heritage behind, even when he joined the US Army Rangers, his mother said. "It was not a surprise when Nino ended up coming to the aid of a pregnant Iraqi woman in Baghdad who was screaming for help."

She, unfortunately, was a suicide bomber. AFP

WHO OWNS CYBER BAY?

SC says some P1.75B in bribes paid to secure PEA-Amari deal

By Philip C. Tubeza

SOME P1.75 billion was paid in bribes to secure the PEA-Amari contract covering the sale of reclaimed public land in Manila Bay, the Supreme Court said in its decision on Tuesday affirming its May 2003 ruling voiding the controversial deal concluded during the Ramos and Estrada administrations that has been dubbed the "grandmother of all scams."

The court cited the bribery in rejecting arguments that the investment of the private consortium that purchased the land deserved protection from the court.

"Many worry to death that the private investors will lose their investments, at most, not more than one-half billion pesos in legitimate expenses if this Court voids the contract. No one seems to worry about the more than tens of billions of pesos that the hapless Filipino people will lose if the contract is allowed to stand," said the resolution penned by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

The high tribunal dismissed on Tuesday a second motion for reconsideration from the state-run Public Estates Authority and Amari—the parties to the contract covering the sale of some 750 hectares of reclaimed and submerged land in Manila Bay—asking the high court to set aside its May 6 ruling nullifying the contract.

The court prohibited PEA and Amari from making any further appeals on the case.

"Litigations must end some time. It is now time to write finis to this 'grandmother of all scams'," the SC said.

The decision came a day after the SC declared unconstitutional the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. by legislators belonging to the Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., the chair of San Miguel Corp.

Cojuangco is believed to control Amari, renamed the Cyber Bay Corp. in 2000, through his right-hand man at SMC, Ramon Ang who is chair and CEO of Cyber Bay.

Davide has said that he was impeached because powerful business interests wanted him out of the SC.

The high court last May voided the PEA-Amari contract for being unconstitutional as reclaimed land was "inalienable natural resources of the public domain" and thus fell "outside the commerce of man."

Aside from the "revolting anomalies," the court said the "fatal flaw" of the contract was that it "glaringly violates provisions of the Constitution expressly prohibiting the alienation of lands of the public domain."

It noted that the government would lose P140.16 billion in the sale as the contract "grossly and unconscionably" undervalued the reclaimed public lands.

"This Court is asked to legitimize a government contract that conveyed to a private entity 157.84 hectares of reclaimed land along Roxas Boulevard in Metro Manila at the original price of P1,200 per sq. m. However, published reports place the market price of land near that area at a high of P90,000 per sq. m. The difference in price is a staggering P140.16 billion, equivalent to the budget of the entire judiciary for 17 years and more than three times the Marcos Swiss deposits that this Court forfeited in favor of the government," the SC resolution said.

"There are those who question these figures, but the questions arise only because the private entity somehow managed to inveigle the government to sell the reclaimed lands without public bidding in patent violation of the Government Auditing Code," it added.

Using the report on the Senate investigation into the scandal, the SC noted that Luis Benitez, of Sycip, Gorres and Velayo, the external auditors of Amari, had testified that the letter-agreement allowing the payment of the bribes and commissions had been approved by the Amari board.

"The private entity that purchased the reclaimed lands for P1.894 billion expressly admitted before the Senate committees that it spent P1.754 billion to pay various individuals for 'professional efforts and services in successfully negotiating and securing' the contract. By any legal or moral yardstick, the P1.754 billion in commissions obviously constitutes bribe money," said the 22-page resolution.

Addressing those who insist that billions of private investments deserve protection from the court, the SC asked: "Should this Court establish a new doctrine by elevating grease money to the status of legitimate investments deserving of protection by the law? Should this Court reward the patently illegal and grossly unethical practice of the private entity in securing the contract? Should we allow those with hands dripping with dirty money equitable relief from this Court?"

Davide, who presided over the en banc session on Tuesday, voted to deny the motion for reconsideration. He was joined by Justices Carpio, Jose Vitug, Artemio Panganiban, Alicia Austria Martinez, Conchita Carpio Morales and Romeo Callejo Jr.

Those who dissented included Justices Josue Bellosillo, Reynato Puno, Leonardo Quisumbing, Consuelo Ynares Santiago, Angelina Sandoval Gutierrez, Renato Corona, and Dante Tinga. Justice Adolfo Azcuna did not participate.

With the 7-7-1 vote, the original ruling was reaffirmed since there was not enough votes to overturn it.

6 Sinos, French held for human smuggling

IMMIGRATION officials said yesterday they have arrested six Chinese and a French national, foiling an attempt to smuggle illegal immigrants into the United States.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said suspected human smuggling gang couriers Jacques Wei, a French citizen, and Wang Xiao Lingzi, a Chinese woman, were arrested on Monday before trying to board a Philippine Air Lines flight to Hong Kong.

Arrested with them were five Chinese—identified as Chen Zhiqin, Lin Wu, Taihai Ouyang, Lin Konggan and Chen Zhi Yan—who allegedly were trying to get into the United States.

All seven are being detained at the immigration jail pending deportation.

Domingo said the aliens were intercepted before reaching the airline counters at Manila's international airport hours after the US Embassy alerted her office about their scheduled departure for the United States via Hong Kong.

US immigration authorities earlier intercepted three Chinese nationals in Miami, Florida, as they tried to enter the country with fake visas.

Officials of the US Department of Homeland Security were told by the detainees about the scheduled arrival of a second batch of Chinese nationals from Manila and Hong Kong, Domingo said.

Philippine and US authorities were able to establish that one syndicate was responsible for both smuggling efforts, she added. *AP*

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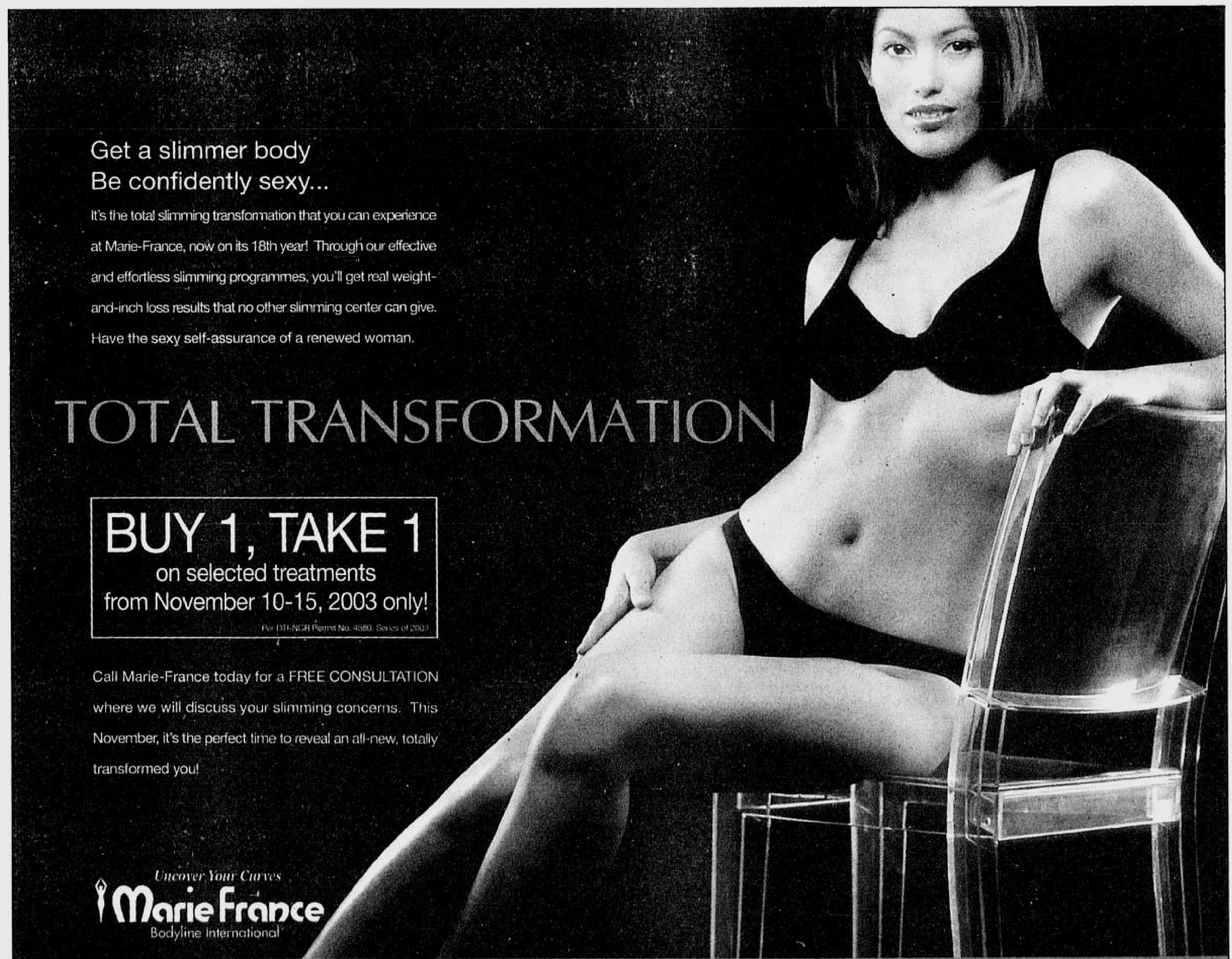
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50th Annual Mine Safety and Environment Conference

S.H.E.S. 50: MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

I extend my heartfelt greetings to the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the whole minerals industry as you hold this year's Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference.

I laud all of you for 50 years of unwavering advocacy on mine safety and health, environmental protection and community development. Indeed, the Philippine minerals industry has experienced a roller coaster growth in the past decades brought about by both external and internal factors.

I directed the DENR and the Department of Trade and Industry early this year to institute measures to revitalize the local minerals industry. Such ongoing initiatives recognize that the minerals industry is truly critical to the country's sustained growth and development.

Your industry's contribution to the country's progress is not simply measured in revenues, but how mineral resources development is improving the quality of life in the regions and communities that host your operations.

Mabuhay and cheers for another 50 years of commitment to excellence.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

MESSAGE

I would like to extend my sincerest greetings to the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA), the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau, and the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines on the Golden Celebration of your Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference on November 11-13, 2003.

As I understand, the annual conference has become a cherished tradition for the minerals industry, a much-awaited event that is meant to showcase achievements and honor achievers in the area of Safety, Health, Environment, and Social Development, as well as bestow recognition to the miners—your single most important asset beyond the mineral deposit itself.

Fifty (50) years of advocacy for the responsible and sustainable development of the minerals industry is, clearly, a feather in the cap for the PMSEA and the whole industry. Yet, given the social issues surrounding some mining operations and the increasing focus on the legacies of post mining activities, it is imperative for the industry to translate this advocacy to actual and real ground performance that goes beyond compliance. In the battle for public acceptability, clear, and verifiable performance is the only weapon the industry can offer to its skeptical stakeholders and effect a change in their perception.

Since the policy pronouncement by Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo early this year, we at the DENR busied ourselves with a number of initiatives. We recently approved the simplification of procedures in the grant of mining tenements, established the Mining Investment Assistance Center at the MGB-CO, in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry, and the One-Stop-Shop Committees in MGB Regional Offices and organized the Philippine Mining Workshops and Conference leading towards the adoption of the National Minerals Policy—all with the ultimate aim of revitalizing the Philippine minerals industry.

The onus is now on the industry, to improve itself and do its share in the partnership. Together, we can make a difference!

ELISEA G. GOZUN

PHILIPPINE MINE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

MESSAGE

It is another momentous year for the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association as we celebrate our 50th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference. We have transformed from a once simple Association (Baguio Mine Operations Safety Association), organized in 1938 by eight (8) mining companies in the Baguio District, to a large organization of individuals, mining, quarrying companies, cement plants, suppliers and other allied industries.

In light of recent development, we have redirected our goals and thrusts from safety and accident prevention by including the advocacy on environmental awareness and social development as part of the Association's mission. This year, we are pioneering another milestone in the Association's accomplishments and putting the Minerals Industry in a better position to assist the populace in case of disasters or calamities. As we celebrate our 50th Conference, we are launching the SNAP (Safety Networking Action Plan) that will compliment the national government's disaster and management program. This is the Mineral Industry's gift to the Filipino people.

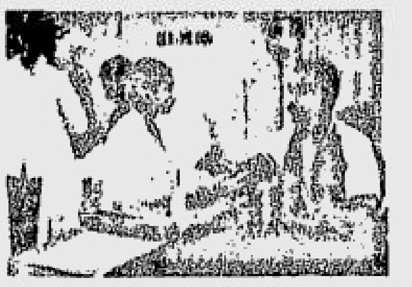
Let me take this opportunity to welcome to our fold the energy sector and to thank chairmen and members of different working committees, the technical secretariat for their selfless efforts to make 50th Celebration a success. We would also like to give our wholehearted gratitude to all sponsors and donors who have supported the Association over the years, participants of the mining caravan that traveled all the way from Baguio City and Mindanao to show their commitment to our cause.

With the Association's future direction, we are looking forward to a safer, more environmentally and socially aware Minerals Industry. Our Industry's contribution would surely boost the country's economic growth. Our experiences and accomplishments will steer us through another 50 years of success and we will truly be making a difference.

JOSE ERNESTO C. RODRIGUEZ

50 years

...of taking care of our workers and families



The collective effort of management and labor to promote **Safety and Health** *eliminates injuries to our workers and significantly reduces health hazards that might affect our families and our host communities.*

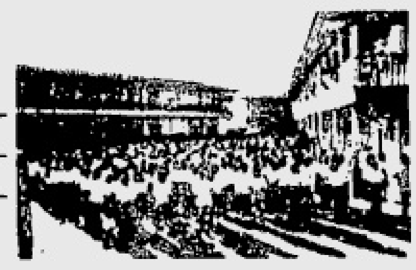
...of taking care of the environment

The pursuit of excellence in environmental management has led to high-impact programs that enhance the Environment.

- *Contingent Liability and Rehabilitation Fund (for mine rehabilitation, monitoring and compensation for damages) – P193 million (as per approved Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program and MOA)*
- *Mine Wastes and Tailings Reserve Fund – P35 million (total amount collected, of which P16.2 Million have been used to compensate 3,791 claims)*
- *Reforested Minesites – 7.7 million trees survived from the 10.3 million seedlings planted covering a total area of 4,175 hectares*

...of taking care of our communities and indigenous peoples

Mining companies continue to fulfill their **Social** *responsibilities to the host and neighboring communities towards creating responsible, self-reliant and resource-based communities.*



Total Fund for the 5-year Social and Development Management Programs – P157 Million (includes infrastructure projects, livelihood industries and education and health programs).

MINERALS INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE AND POTENTIAL

2002 economic contribution

Production Value	P 34.8 Billion
Value-Added Contribution	P 15.2 Billion (1.5% of GDP)
Exports	$ 519 Million
Paid-up Investments	P 360.4 Million
Direct Employment	101,000
Taxes and Fees	P 2.2 Million
Multiplier Effect	

for each mining job, 4 to 10 allied jobs are created

Potential Impacts
REVITALIZATION OF THE MINERALS INDUSTRY PROGRAM

$ 4.36B
Additional Investments

$ 2.32 B
Additional Annual Revenues

20,000
Additional Employment during operations

RESCUE IN A SNAP!

The minerals industry is embarking on a program that will enhance its social relevance in local communities by providing rescue in a SNAP!

The Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) will formally launch the Safety Networking Action Program (SNAP) during the Awards Night and Testimonial Dinner of the Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference (ANMSEC) to be held at the Manila Hotel on November 13, 2003.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will deliver a keynote speech and confer the Presidential Industry Environmental Award to this year's winners.

"We acknowledge our responsibility of helping the government respond to natural and man-made emergencies especially in remote areas where they do not have adequate equipment and manpower. Most mining and quarrying companies have their own Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) and we are willing to share our resources and people to help communities in need," said Jose Ernesto Rodriguez, PMSEA President.

SNAP MOA SIGNING. *Shown in photo are (L–R) PMSEA President Ernesto Rodriguez, NDCC-Office of Civil Defene Administrator Maj. Gen. Melchor Rosales (Ret.), and Chamber of Mines of the Philippines Director Benjamin Philip Romualdez.*

PMSEA has recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Disaster Coordinating Council to formalize and immediately operationalize the SNAP.

During the 1990 killer earthquake in Baguio, mining industry workers demonstrated their courage and skills in the search and rescue operations that saved a number of trapped victims.

Mining industry leaders agree that the SNAP is a fitting symbol for ANMSEC's golden anniversary in recognition of the mining companies' commitment to safety, health, environment and social development.

Looking back...:

The Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) is a non-stock, non-profit, and sectoral organization of exploration, mining and quarry companies, cement plants, service contractors and suppliers of mining equipment and machinery, whose advocacy and commitment is to actively participate in meeting the challenges of sustainable development through responsible mineral development, fully cognizant of attendant occupational safety and health, emergency preparedness, and environmental and community development concerns.

It was originally organized in 1938 by a core of eight (8) major mines in the Baguio Mining District under the name of Baguio Mine Operations Safety Association (BMOSA). Its main objective was to promote the doctrine of safety for the preservation and conservation of lives and properties in the mining, quarrying, metallurgical and allied industries.

Milestones

1953 - The first Annual National Mine Safety Conference was organized in Baguio City.

1967 - Presidential Proclamation No. 115-A was issued on 17 November 1967 declaring the month of November as the Mine Safety and Accident Prevention Month. On the same year, the Bureau of Mines, in collaboration with the mining industry, organized the Philippine Mine Safety Association (PMSA), successor of the BMOSA.

1969 - Maintained a Mine Rescue Training Center in Baguio City

1972 - Organized formal training classes – a step to inject within the industry the modern trends and standards of safety operations

1973 - Industry and government started a dialogue for the institution of necessary safety measures

1976 - The one-million manhours worked without lost time accident became common accomplishments in the mines. The Revised Mine Safety Rules and Regulations was approved.

1985 - Safety promotions were paying-off manifested by marked improvements in the accident frequency rates of the different mining operations.

1988 - Incorporated the Adopt-a-Tree, Adopt-a-Mountain Movement as part of the Annual Conference and awarding ceremonies

1990 - Heroic participation in the Baguio City Rescue Operations

1992 - Co-sponsored a workshop to formulate guidelines for safety practices and extended assistance to promote safety consciousness in small-scale mining areas

1993 - Pres. F.V. Ramos created a Multi-sectoral Task Force on mining industry that assessed the need and laid-out measures for the resuscitation of the industry;

1994 - Republic Act No. 7729 - Reduction of Excise Tax on Mineral Products was approved.

1995 - RA 7942 or The Philippine Mining Act of 1995 was passed.

1996 - Institutionalized the Environmental Awards

1997 - PMSEA became a signatory to the Philippine Mining Industry's Commitment to the Environment, which include the planting of three (3) million trees and allotment of funds for environmental protection, community development and accident prevention. The organization also became a member of the Philippine Mineral Industry Environmental Awards (PMIEA) Selection Committee since that year.

1998 - Holding of the Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference (ANMSEC) in Mindanao coinciding with the Philippine Centennial Celebration.

1999 - The PMSEA was a signatory to "Our Path Forward", a document stating firm support to the government's program on Sustainable Development.

2000 - The birth of the acronym, S.H.E.S. - highlighting the importance and linkage between Safety and Health; Environment; and Social concerns.

2003 - On 13 November 2003, the PMSEA celebrates its 50th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference (ANMSEC). This will be highlighted by the "Safety Networking Action Program" (SNAP) - a joint effort with the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC).

Rampage in Ayala

From page A1

He added: "We are not looking at it as a national security concern," dismissing rumors that the demonstration was part of a plot to destabilize the government.

But Philippine National Police officials and the military service said the rally, which unsettled the same district where disgruntled military officers had staged a mutiny only last July, could actually be part of another plot to grab power.

Expect more

A senior police source, requesting anonymity, said the organizers of the protest were "testing the waters."

The military official, who also requested anonymity, said the mass action could have been intended to generate enough popular support to set the stage for a possible coup. The official said he had been monitoring the purported destabilization plot over the past several weeks.

"Military and police adventurists are just waiting for the right time to give their support," the military source, a counter-intelligence officer, told the INQUIRER.

In the coming weeks, the source added, the public should expect more protest actions.

The demonstration came a day after the Armed Forces activated a new 6,000-member unit to guard Metro Manila against security threats.

All-night vigil

Police and other sources said the protesters, who included supporters of controversial opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan, were planning to hold an all-night vigil in Makati City, to demand the immediate resignation of Ms Macapagal, Davide and Speaker Jose De Venecia.

Supt. Jovito Gutierrez, Makati police chief, said the protesters, which included many women and children were dispersed because of "obstinately extending their deadline."

Gutierrez said the protesters, led by the October 28 Movement and the People's Movement Against Poverty, were allowed to hold their demonstration from 12 noon to 5 p.m., as stated in their rally permit.

They were dispersed by about 300 civil disturbance officers when they kept on extending their deadline, Gutierrez said.

When the protesters asked for a 30-minute extension during a dialogue led by October 28 Movement spokesperson Estelita Cordero, the police relented.

But at around 5:40 pm., the police decided to disperse the crowd to restore order and smooth traffic flow on Ayala Avenue.

Gutierrez said police declared the avenue clear and open to traffic 10 minutes after.

Portable toilet

The demonstrators, who were holding a mini-concert with a truck serving as a stage, right in front of Rustan's Ayala, ran in different directions as the police began dispersing them with water and tear gas.

A number of protesters sustained minor injuries during the dispersal.

Policemen also beat their shields as a warning to those who refused to budge, and arrested three men who defied a "lawful order to disperse peacefully," a policeman said.

In the melee, the police even toppled at least four portable toilets in front of the Glorietta mall entrance, to make sure there were no ralliers hiding inside.

Security guards of Rustan's Ayala closed their doors and windows during the rally and dispersal.

Meals excluded

An operative of the Makati police said there was no difficulty in dispersing the crowd, because most of the protesters were "paid and bussed in."

"We learned that most of them were paid P150 in advance and promised P150 more after the rally, excluding meals," the policeman said. "They were just there for the money and not for their beliefs and convictions about the present administration."

According to the police, around 2,000 protesters, including women and children, converged at the corner of Buendia and Ayala Avenue as early as 10 a.m.

By 3 p.m., the police estimated that there were around 10,000 ralliers on Ayala Avenue.

A few children from Baseco Compound in Tondo said they were there because of "a rally" but were shushed by their mother, who told them not to talk to reporters.

Edwin Inocencio, a vendor, and Marlon Adriano, a tricycle driver, from Tatalon, Quezon City said they wanted to fight for their rights as poor and oppressed citizens, but later admitted that they were given free lunches and snacks, aside from P100 pocket money.

Newsman arrested

The police chief for Metro Manila, Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco, denied that the massive rally was connected with any destabilization effort.

But he said police would remain on alert until the mass action was fully quashed. Authorities would also be keeping a close watch on key installations, he added.

The NCRPO chief also said he ordered the arrest of Herman Tiu Laurel, a newspaper columnist and a known Estrada supporter, for his unruly behavior during the rally. He said Laurel was brought to the Makati police headquarters where appropriate charges would be filed against him.

"We are not leaving until GMA leaves," Laurel had told the crowd, referring to the President.

But according to the INQUIRER's military source, the violent rally was a "test case" included in the purported plan to replace the Macapagal administration with a seven-man junta consisting of four military officers and three civilians.

He refused to identify the people being eyed for the junta but insisted that Honasan would not get any of the seven slots because the plotters "didn't like him."

The official said he and other military intelligence officers had been expecting the protests as early as two weeks ago when the emotions of pro-impeachment camps ran high.

Rumors spread via mobile telephone text messages said the protest was the start of an attempt to dislodge the President.

The mass action caused thousands of commuters to be stranded on Ayala and Buendia during rush hour. *With a report from Luige del Puerto*

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New AFP force to defend Metro vs terror

rom page A1

rained by American soldiers for he Light Reaction Company LRC) in Basilan would be integrated into the NCRC.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said the members of the LRC were already in Camp Aguinaldo.

The elite troops will be used primarily for the antiterror campaign "since they are trained to combat terrorism," Lucero said.

"But they will also be used against any destabilization effort if needed," he added.

Earlier, Lucero said the new command would be a permanent unit and would replace Task Force Libra, an anti-coup force. A similar unit was established in the 1980s when then President Corazon Aquino put down at least seven coup attempts by rebellious troops.

Concerns

Leftist groups, however, said the reactivation of the NCRC was an ominous sign of urban militarization by the Macapagal administration.

"(Ms Macapagal's) main focus now is the militarization of Metro Manila by resorting to martial law-like measures in pursuit of her campaign against the so-called terrorists, which also means suppression of all legitimate anti-government dissents," Robert de Castro, Bayan Muna deputy secretary general, said in a phone interview.

Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas president, said the swelling protests against the government could be one of the primary reasons behind NCRC formation.

"This is another case of an overkill. Terrorism, coup, insurgency are lame excuses for such a predilection to militarism," Fortaleza told the INQUIRER.

Protest actions

De Castro said his group would pursue a series of protest actions against the Macapagal administration next week even if the metropolis was teeming with soldiers.

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, described the formation of the NCRC as "a panic reaction" on the part of Ms Macapagal.

"We will not stage any tactical military offensive in Metro Manila nor conduct any so-called terrorist activities because we're not a terrorist organization," Rosal said.

Sanlakas Rep. JV Bautista said the formation of the NCRC was another case of "overkill" by the Macapagal administration.

State of siege

"Are we under a stage of siege? Granting that (Ms Macapagal) is not in the mode of declaring martial rule, the thing is why call on land, air and naval troops to a permanent mission of securing the National Capital Region?" Bautista asked.

He noted that a number of troops being deployed in Metro Manila was more than the number used in driving the Moro Islamic Liberation Front out of the "Buliok Complex" in Central Mindanao. *Reports by Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

QC judge dismisses Kuratong case vs Lacson, 33 others

From page A1

pine National Police.

In a 17-page decision, Yadao dismissed the case after she granted the motions filed by the defense for the determination of probable cause. A probable cause would have been the basis for the issuance of warrants for the arrest of Lacson and his co-accused.

Yadao did not give credence to the affidavits of prosecution witnesses Senior Insp. Abelardo Ramos, Insp. Ysmael Yu, Senior Police Officer 1 Wilmor Medes and civilian agent Mario Enad.

She noted that Yu did not mention in his affidavit that the alleged criminals were shot to death by the respondents though he was part of the team that arrested the victims in Parañaque. She said the affidavits of Ramos, Medes and Enad were full of inconsistencies.

Manifest error

"After a thorough and searching examination of the evidence submitted by the prosecutors, as well as what appears in the voluminous record of the cases, this court finds no probable cause exists for the issuance of the warrants of arrest against any or all of the accused, and that the DOJ panel of prosecutors, in evaluating the evidence before it committed a manifest error constituting grave abuse of discretion and exhibited its prejudice," the judge said.

The court, however, granted the prosecutors' omnibus motion seeking the admission of the two amended information items regarding the ages of two of the victims.

5th dismissal

The prosecution had wanted the case re-raffled to a family court on the ground that two of the 11 victims—Sherwin Abalona and Melebren Sorondа—were minors at the time of the murder.

But Yadao rejected the pleading of the prosecution to have the case transferred to the family court.

Lacson pointed out that it was the fifth instance that a court dismissed the controversial case, which was originally filed in 1995. The case was ordered reopened by the Supreme Court on Oct. 7.

The high court also ordered that the 11 cases against Lacson be consolidated and re-raffled to one of the Quezon City courts assigned to deal with heinous crimes. On Oct. 9, the case was re-raffled to the sala of Yadao.

Prayers

Lacson attributed the provisional dismissal of the case to divine intervention. "My prayers were finally answered," he said.

Asked whether he could now sleep well, he said: "I usually sleep well."

Lacson pointed out that the Yadao ruling upheld his innocence because there was insufficient evidence to establish that he and the other police officials had ordered the killings of the suspected bank robbers.

He reminded the public that it should not forget that the victims were 11 notorious criminals. "They were robbing banks. They were killing security guards. They were killing depositors. They were killing policemen. But when we solved the problem, we were inundated with cases," said Lacson who stressed that he was suffering for something that he did not do.

Prejudicial

Former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, who lawyered for Lacson's co-accused Chief Superintendents Romeo Acop and Francisco Zubia, said Yadao slammed the Department of Justice for being prejudicial and biased against Lacson.

Chavez said the the decision also sustained his clients' position that the so-called new witnesses were in fact "recycled and perjured" witnesses.

To pin down Lacson, prosecutors anchored their finding of probable cause on the affidavits of police officers Yu, Ramos and Medes, and civilian agent Enad. The sworn statements of the police officers were taken in March and April 2001—or six years after the crime. Enad's statement was taken in August 1998.

No personal knowledge

While Yu said he was part of the team that was briefed in the presence of Lacson regarding the order to "neutralize" the gang, "he has not accused anyone of murder," Yadao said.

"All (his affidavit) says is that Yu and his team apprehended eight live suspects who were unarmed and were turned over to the investigating team but (he) has no personal knowledge about what has happened to the suspects later," the judge said.

Yu said he just "learned" about the alleged shootout on Commonwealth Avenue.

Yadao also found the account of Ramos "full of loopholes" even after the police officer claimed he actually took part in executing the gang members by shooting at the L300 van containing the suspects.

Ramos claimed that he had heard Lacson saying "*baka may mabuhay pa diyan* (someone in the group might live)," referring to the suspects as they were being led out of the office of Zubia.

The witness said it was Zubia who "explained the plan to bring the suspects to Commonwealth where they would be killed."

Second-hand info

Ramos said Lacson had "nodded" after Zubia explained that the plan to make the killing appear like a shootout, "had the clearance of higher authorities."

"Was Lacson's nodding and saying '*baka may mabuhay pa diyan*,' assuming this to be true, an order by him to kill the suspects?" Yadao asked.

The judge dismissed Medes' affidavit because it was largely "second-hand information coming from Ramos."

Yadao also doubted the credibility of Enad, recalling that Ramos and Medes themselves had stated in affidavits executed in April 1996 that Enad was never part of the Kuratong operation both in Parañaque and in Quezon City.

The 1996 affidavit was in connection with the robbery case filed against the two officers. It was later dismissed by the Office of the Ombudsman.

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NPA kills Army sergeant, son in Samar

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Communist rebels killed on Sunday an Army soldier and his 10-year-old son, who had just attended a worship service at the Pentecostal Church, in Catbalogan, Samar.

About five hours later, suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels shot and killed a former village chief at the Catbalogan public market, about 200 meters away from the first ambush.

Maj. Gen. Glenn Rabonza, 8th Infantry Division commander, identified fatalities in the two ambuscades as T/Sgt. Jesus Dacles of the 8th ID, his son John-john and Felimon Silao, former chair of Barangay 3.

Rabonza said he could not say if the same group was behind the two attacks. But the suspects in the killing of the soldier and his son have been identified.

Murder charges were filed against Bernabe Linay, alias Gagoy, of Barangay Pena; Ernesto Laboc, alias Malcolm, of Barangay Totoringon and one identified only as Bambie before the Regional Trial Court in Catbalogan.

The three were said to be members of the NPA Arnulfo Ortiz Command operating in the Samar area.

Investigation showed that Dacles, his wife and two sons were on a motorcycle on their way to the 8th ID headquarters in Camp Lukban when they were fired upon by three NPA rebels in Barangay Patag at about 2 p.m.

Autopsy results showed that Dacles suffered 18 gunshot wounds and was killed on the spot. John-john was hit in the head and in the upper body. The boy died upon reaching the Samar Provincial Hospital.

Dacles' wife, whom Rabonza did not identify, and another son Jeffrey, 11, escaped unhurt.

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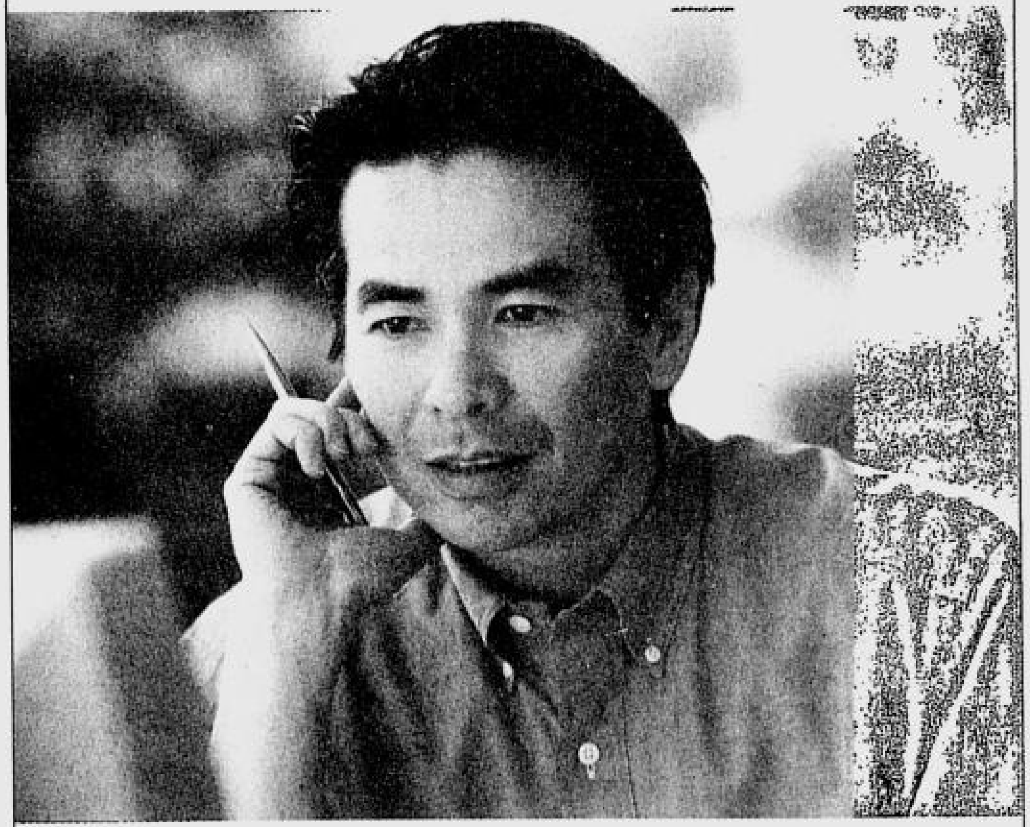

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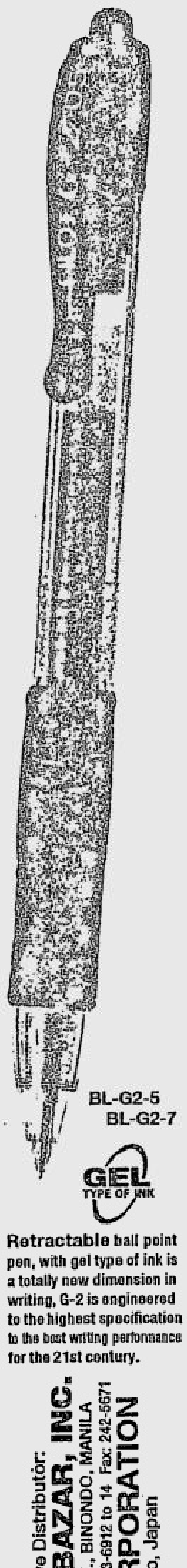

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GMA seeks peace with Erap, Danding, insurgents

From page A1

Capalla accepted the invitation, but Intengan declined. (*See separate story.*)

Legacy

"I think the President's vision is for total reconciliation and unqualified healing [of the nation]. This will be her greatest legacy to the nation," Housing Secretary Mike Defensor, a close political ally of the President, said.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the reconciliation effort had nothing to do with the President's bid for a fresh term in the May 2004 presidential elections.

Quiet down

"The effort is very genuine and very sincere," Bunye said.

Ms Macapagal said that for the country to move forward after the Davide impeachment controversy, "we must have reconciliation and new-found unity. For the peace of mind of the people, we must quiet down this controversy after it has already been constitutionally resolved."

"I have opened earnest back channels to all the groups involved and I hope they will heed the call for principled reconciliation," she said.

Addressing the Bulacan Peace and Development Summit later in the day, the President said reconciliation was the only way the country could attain peace. These efforts must continue "to strengthen the democratic institutions in our country."

"Our country needs to be healed through the patriotism brought about by the reconciliation of opposing groups," she said.

Cabinet meeting

The President said she called the Cabinet to a special meeting on Tuesday to "reflect" on principled reconciliation, with Capalla and Intengan providing the "theology" for the reflection.

Bunye told reporters that the "details" of the reconciliation plan "were not very clear to us as of yesterday," but pointed out that it would be "based on certain principles" and the rule of law.

He said that at the Cabinet's "special meeting," the "guidelines" for the all-embracing reconciliation program were "approved in principle."

"No time frame was discussed but the urgency was stressed. It's very important for us to really move forward that we have reconciliation within our country and our society," he said.

"I believe in general this government would be reaching out to all the sectors to whom we have to reach out," he said.

First time

He said there were ongoing efforts to revive peace talks with the NDF and the MILF but said it was the "first time this avenue was opened" to the Marcoses and the Estrada and Cojuangco groups.

Asked if the military was identified as among the groups, Bunye said that "in that particular meeting, no."

"But if we are dealing with the MILF, all the more we should be prepared to deal with some elements of the military," Bunye said.

He said the President would also include her political foes, such as opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who had accused First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo of laundering his wife's campaign contributions in secret Jose Pidal accounts.

"Although there was no specific mention of Senator Lacson, again we said the effort to reach out is not selective," Bunye said.

Reconciliation meetings

Bunye said Capalla would immediately get in touch with the concerned parties to bring them to reconciliation meetings.

"The facilitator will sound out the parties concerned. Depending on their response, the party who expresses interest first will probably be tackled first," Bunye said.

"After the presentation of position papers (by Capalla and Intengan), there were a lot of questions," Bunye said. "They were very particular, especially with regard to the treatment of the Marcos wealth and the Cojuangco wealth."

What happens to cases

He said some Cabinet members, whom he did not name, were concerned about what would happen to the ill-gotten wealth and criminal cases against the Marcoses and Cojuangco and whether these would still be pursued.

"Those are detailed questions which were tossed back and forth during the meeting. The President listened to the exchange, the persons asking questions were members of Cabinet and they were directed toward the resource persons. The President said ... there will be problems ahead but we should be prepared to take the first step," Bunye explained.

In Estrada's case, Bunye said Cabinet members asked what would happen to his plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan.

"I believe the general feeling yesterday was that the rule of law will have to be upheld but of course the humane treatment of the detainee, being a former President, should be taken into consideration," Bunye said.

Asked if the Macapagal administration would be lenient with Estrada and allow him house arrest and operation in the United States, Bunye said: "We do not wish to go that far. I believe we will adapt to the situation as this plays out. As again we would like to emphasize that what is important is there is a decision that has been made. This is acceptable to the Cabinet and the first step of identifying the facilitator was made."

Authentic reconciliation

Bunye distributed copies of the position papers presented by Capalla and Intengan on how to achieve political reconciliation.

Bunye put special emphasis on Intengan's enumeration of three conditions that make reconciliation "authentic and morally acceptable."

These were: sufficient acknowledgment of offenses committed against the common good, substantial restitution and reparation and desistance from further activities that destabilize democracy and harm the common good.

Revolutionary

In his paper, Intengan said the Philippines was "now in a revolutionary situation" arising from the "efforts of a wide spectrum of opposition groups."

Intengan said a revolutionary situation is "one in which there is widespread desire for radical socio-political change among the people, groups could emerge that could lead or effect change and the prevailing system is under serious attack, the holders of state power are hard put to maintain the system or change in the direction they want, societal institutions are under serious challenge and there are real prospects of seizure of power by forces other than the present besieged wielders of state power."

He said this is the second in a three-stage revolutionary process. The first is a "revolutionary mood," and the final stage is a "revolutionary crisis." *With reports from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AFP*

Erap spurns offer; Imee welcomes it

From page A1

edged that the President's plan was "very, very difficult" to achieve.

"It is an ideal, but in reality, the results would be partial, but it's something worth trying," he told the INQUIRER in another phone interview. But Intengan declined to accept Ms Macapagal's invitation, saying he was "too combative."

Lie detector test

Estrada rued the difference between his impeachment case and the complaint filed against Davide.

"During my impeachment case, I did not raise any technical issue like Davide did. They cannot fool the Filipino people," he said.

When asked if he was closing the door to reconciliation with Ms Macapagal, Estrada repeated his "condition": "My priority is to subject Davide and myself to [a] lie detector test since we were both subject of impeachment complaint. That is my condition for this reconciliation. I welcome this reconciliation effort but only if things are set right between me and Davide. Reconciliation is okay but they have to ask Davide to submit himself to the constitutional process like what I did during my time."

Representative Marcos noted that her family had "long wanted a resolution" to such issues as the alleged ill-gotten Marcos wealth and charges of massive human rights violations during her father's term.

"Only lawyers, bankers and accountants are benefiting from this wealth issue," she said. "As to the human rights cases, we've not been really given the chance to offer our evidence."

No official word

Marcos declined to answer categorically what the family would regard as its bottom line should a resolution of the Marcos issues be worked out with the government.

"We're really open," she said.

Marcos said her family would want to see details of any proposal from the Palace about Ms Macapagal's reconciliation offer.

"We have not received any official word yet," she said.

She noted that the Marcos problem was the oldest unresolved issue in the country.

"*Kami na siguro ang pinakamatagal dito* (Ours might be the longest-running)," she said.

No appeal

Lacson asked the administration to gain closure on the Kuratong case, as he noted that even if the case had been provisionally dismissed yesterday, the Department of Justice could still move to appeal the decision or call for a preliminary investigation.

He said it was the Macapagal administration that revived the 8-year-old case where he and former members of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission were charged with the gangland-style execution of the Kuratong Baleleng Gang. Including yesterday's ruling by Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 81 Judge Theresa Yadao, the case has been dismissed five times.

"I hope there's closure, not so much for me but for my colleagues [also charged in the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case]," he said. "*Sana nga totohanan na ito* (I hope this reconciliation call is genuine)."

A long time

Intengan explained that total reconciliation would take a very long time, because different groups would have different versions of the truth and different goals.

He said it was possible to reconcile with one or two groups before the President's term ends next year, but that some groups may not come to an agreement.

Intengan also stressed that reconciliation would work for the common good only if it follows the principles of repentance, truth-telling, reparation and an end to bickering.

"Politically, it might look OK, but for it to be good for the people, there must first be repentance and conversion," he said.

Intengan also said he might not be welcomed by some of the groups the government is trying to reach.

Intengan cited his involvement in protests against the Marcos regime and the impeachment of Estrada.

Too involved

"I'm too involved in this. I've taken sides. I don't feel that I am qualified... I am too combative," Intengan said.

He said that while he had the passion, he did not have the cool and calm attitude needed for negotiators or agents of reconciliation.

"I have my expertise and areas of competence and aptitude, and this is not one of them. I just gave the theological approach (during the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday)," he said.

Intengan was invited by Malacañang to give a framework for reconciliation during the meeting. He said he discussed only the Christian teachings on reconciliation.

Mixed motives

Intengan warned that some parties who would come into the reconciliation process would surely have "mixed motives."

But he said that he believed in the sincerity of the President, who said as early as 2001, when she replaced Estrada in Malacañang, that she wanted to have unity and reconciliation.

He recalled that Ms Macapagal had tried to reach out to Estrada's supporters especially among the urban poor after the so-called Edsa Tres.

"Everybody has mixed motives, but the strong motive of the President is to make the country as governable as possible," he said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

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12 bullets killed Villaruel, 'devastated' face

From page A1

Francis Pangilinan, chair of the justice committee, allowing the playing of the two-part, 23-minute taped interview conducted by dzBB's Arnold Clavio with Villaruel on the early morning hours of Nov. 8.

The playing of the tape affected Villaruel's daughter, Mary Ann, who attended the hearing and who later broke down and cried upon hearing the dying gasps of her father.

Devastated face

Dr. Emmanuel Aranas of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory told senators that the autopsy done on Villaruel showed he sustained 12 gunshot wounds in the body which "devastated" his face and his right arm.

Ebdane's defense

But Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane defended the actions taken by the assault team as a "legitimate operation."

In his opening statement, Mendoza said that the crisis committee that he formed after being authorized by President Macapagal-Arroyo to oversee the crisis, tried its best to communicate with Villaruel but the latter was not cooperative.

Using the transcript of the radio interview of Villaruel, Mendoza also said that the latter had also uttered "threats of violence" when he dissuaded the police team from entering the tower or members would end up being hurt.

Unlawful

Mendoza said that Villaruel's takeover of the control tower was an "unlawful interference" of a vital installation.

Ebdane said the assault team followed the procedures in the rules of engagement denying the excessive use of force. He said the team acted the way it did because there was a takeover of a vital installation by armed men and a threat to incoming and outgoing airline passengers.

Safety priority

"The loss of a life is tragic but the safety and security of the people should be prioritized," he said.

Air Transportation Office chief Nilo Jatico said Villaruel was able to gain entry into the tower premises because the latter sought permission to do research concerning flight safety last Nov. 5.

Jatico said a clearance was given Villaruel but he admitted that there were violations in the conditions set in the clearance, specifically that prohibiting the former ATO chief from remaining in the premises not later than 4 p.m.

Identify assault team

During the hearing, Drilon and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. demanded authorities to identify the names of the assault team. But police officials said they would give the names but asked that the Senate keep their identities confidential because the members of the assault team had been receiving threats.

Disappointed

After the hearing, Drilon also said he was "disappointed" with the admission of police officials that they didn't follow certain SOPs required in after-police operations.

"Up to now no paraffin tests were taken of the team, no ballistic tests were taken of firearms used, the investigating bodies did not even have custody of the firearms used. I don't know if there were lapses, but certainly I'm not happy," Drilon added.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon lamented that there was no full-blown negotiation conducted, only attempts to communicate with him.

"They attacked my father without negotiating," Mary Ann Villaruel told reporters.

No hero

Don't treat him like a hero.

Faced with fierce criticism for the way it handled the airport crisis, the Philippine National Police yesterday asked the public not to make a hero out of Villaruel.

Suspicions have been raised about the Aviation Security Group (ASG) violating the rules of engagement after Villaruel's family opened his coffin for public viewing. More than half of Villaruel's face was shattered while his arm was so riddled with bullets that it was almost severed.

But yesterday, Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong cleared the ASG members who assaulted the control tower of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport 2.

He said that the assault was "justified" as the two men endangered flights coming in and out of the country ... There were violations of the law when the tower was occupied," Datumanong said.

He added that while Villaruel told the media that he would surrender, this information was not relayed on time to the policemen who stormed the tower.

GMA dismayed

Ms Macapagal yesterday expressed deep dismay "at how grief and loss has been exploited by partisanship and propaganda.

"It is sad that there are those who did not come to his wake to grieve but only to string up their placards and streamers to put down the government," the President said in a statement.

She did not name the groups but her critic, Pastor "Boy" Saycon, secretary general of the Council on Philippine Affairs, was among those who appeared in the wake of Villaruel and denounced the government. He also organized a prayer rally in Ayala on Monday which was attended by the Villaruel family and militant groups.

"The moment calls for dignity and we must accord it to the departed," Ms Macapagal said.

She asserted her own grief over the death of Villaruel.

"I understand the grief the Villaruel family is undergoing," she said. "For a son, for a daughter and for a wife ... a father and a husband could do no wrong," said Ms Macapagal.

The Villaruel family had blamed the President for his "murder."

Time to heal wounds

"I pray that time would heal the wounds in their hearts and by that time, we hope that they would realize that his death did not come from any form of personal hatred or anger," Ms Macapagal said.

Only hours after Villaruel's killing, the President justified the assault operation and the man's demise.

When asked if she personally knew Villaruel and how she regarded him, she said: "I thought he was a friend."

Repercussions

In Camp Crame, Director Ricardo de Leon, PNP spokesperson and chief of the directorial staff, told reporters, that before criticizing the PNP-ASG, the public should first consider the repercussions of the retired Air Force captain's takeover of a vital installation like the Naia 2 control tower.

"He posed a threat to the lives of other people," De Leon said.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. commended the PNP-ASG for their "firmness and decisiveness." *With a report from Nelson Flores*

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Bellosillo goes out laughing

From page A1

One of these lessons, he told his colleagues gathered at the Supreme Court's session hall, was that quoting the Bible could get one into trouble.

He was referring to Davide's propensity to rely on biblical passages to guide his decisions.

Bellosillo also said life at the high tribunal became "more exciting" following the publication of SC Justice Artemio Panganiban's book "Reforming the Judiciary."

That book became the basis for the impeachment complaint filed by former President Joseph Estrada against him, Davide, Panganiban, Reynato Puno, Jose Vitug, Leonardo Quisumbing, Antonio Carpio and Renato Corona.

In the book, Panganiban said Davide received inspiration from the Bible before he decided during the height of the Edsa II uprising to swear in then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President.

Panganiban wrote that Davide would usually open the Bible at random and reflect on the passages on the open page.

At 3:30 a.m. on Jan. 20, 2001, Davide opened his Bible and out leaped the passages of Isaiah 62, which was about the restoration of Zion.

"As he prayed and meditated, he was struck by the unmistakable impression that he should act to restore Zion, that is, to bring normalcy to the country. Hence, when I called him up at 5:30 a.m., he was spiritually and psychologically ready for my then 'weird-sounding' proposal," Panganiban wrote.

Panganiban said he had believed that Ms Macapagal should be sworn in as President even if she had not requested it and even thought Estrada was still in Malacañang.

"It is not always safe to quote the Bible," Bellosillo noted, eliciting laughter from the gallery.

Bellosillo said his retirement "robbed" him of the chance to see how this "exciting chapter" in the court's life would end.

Opposition congressmen are reportedly planning to revive Estrada's impeachment complaint even after it was found to be insufficient in substance by the House of Representatives' committee on justice.

"I guess I beat them to the draw because I am on my way out," Bellosillo had told reporters before the ceremony.

Bellosillo said he planned to rest and focus on his family after his retirement.

But there were speculations that he would be appointed justice secretary to replace Simeon Datumanong who will be running in next year's elections.

Justice Reynato Puno announced that the Court's resolution praising the services rendered by Bellosillo was approved unanimously and did not elicit any dissent from the justices.

Bellosillo jested that he did not sign the resolution. Davide praised Bellosillo, saying he was leaving a much stronger judiciary, especially after the high court struck down as unconstitutional the impeachment complaint against the Chief Justice.

Bellosillo did not join the majority in that decision, preferring that Congress first exhaust other remedies.

"On Monday, our democratic institutions were empowered and the rule of law triumphed. It was a glorious day for the court and the justices; it was a victory for democracy and the Filipino people," Davide said.

"The court is now much stronger and we will continue to move on with courage and determination. Even when surrounded by clouds of intrigues and controversies, we will not be prevented from seeking our duty, recognizing and celebrating life."

"In the time of social disquietude and political excitement, the court once again solidly defined itself and affirmed its duty under the Constitution, which, to quote our honoree this afternoon, should not be easily tampered with in pursuit of political exigency, personal ambition or ill-advised agitation to change."

Among those who attended the farewell gathering for Bellosillo were Speaker Jose de Venecia, Sen. Aquilino Pimetel, former Sen. Jovito Salonga and justices of the Sandiganbayan and the Court of Appeals.

Philip Tubeza

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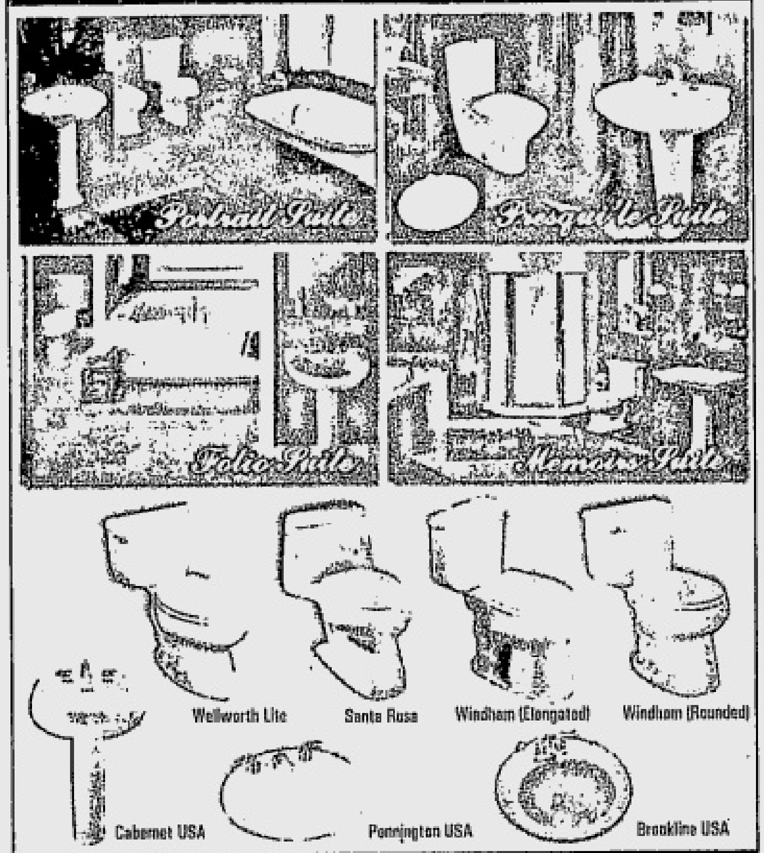

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Explosion hits Italian police HQ in Iraq

ROME—An explosion on Wednesday rocked the headquarters of the Italian Carabinieri police in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah, killing at least six Italians and possibly trapping others under the debris, Italy's military command said in Rome.

The Italian president, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, called the bombing a "terrorist act."

The explosive device went off at about 10:40 a.m. Iraqi time at the multinational specialist unit in the southern city, the Carabinieri (military police) said in a statement. The statement said the explosion occurred in front of the base, near the Iraqi chamber of commerce.

A Carabinieri official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that six Italians were dead.

Another official, Maj. Roberto Riccardi, said the building was in flames, and that some Italians may be under the debris, although details were difficult to come by because communication had been severed.

"We cannot exclude the possibility that there are soldiers under the rubble," he said in a telephone interview.

The Carabinieri also said there may also be injuries among Iraqis.

Italy has sent about 2,300 troops to help the reconstruction in Iraq. About 300 Carabinieri are based in the Nasiriyah camp, along with 110 Romanians. Everyone was believed to have been inside the building at the time of the blast, because it occurred early in the morning, Riccardi said.

The Carabinieri is under the defense ministry, and frequently serve in international missions such as in Afghanistan and the Balkans.

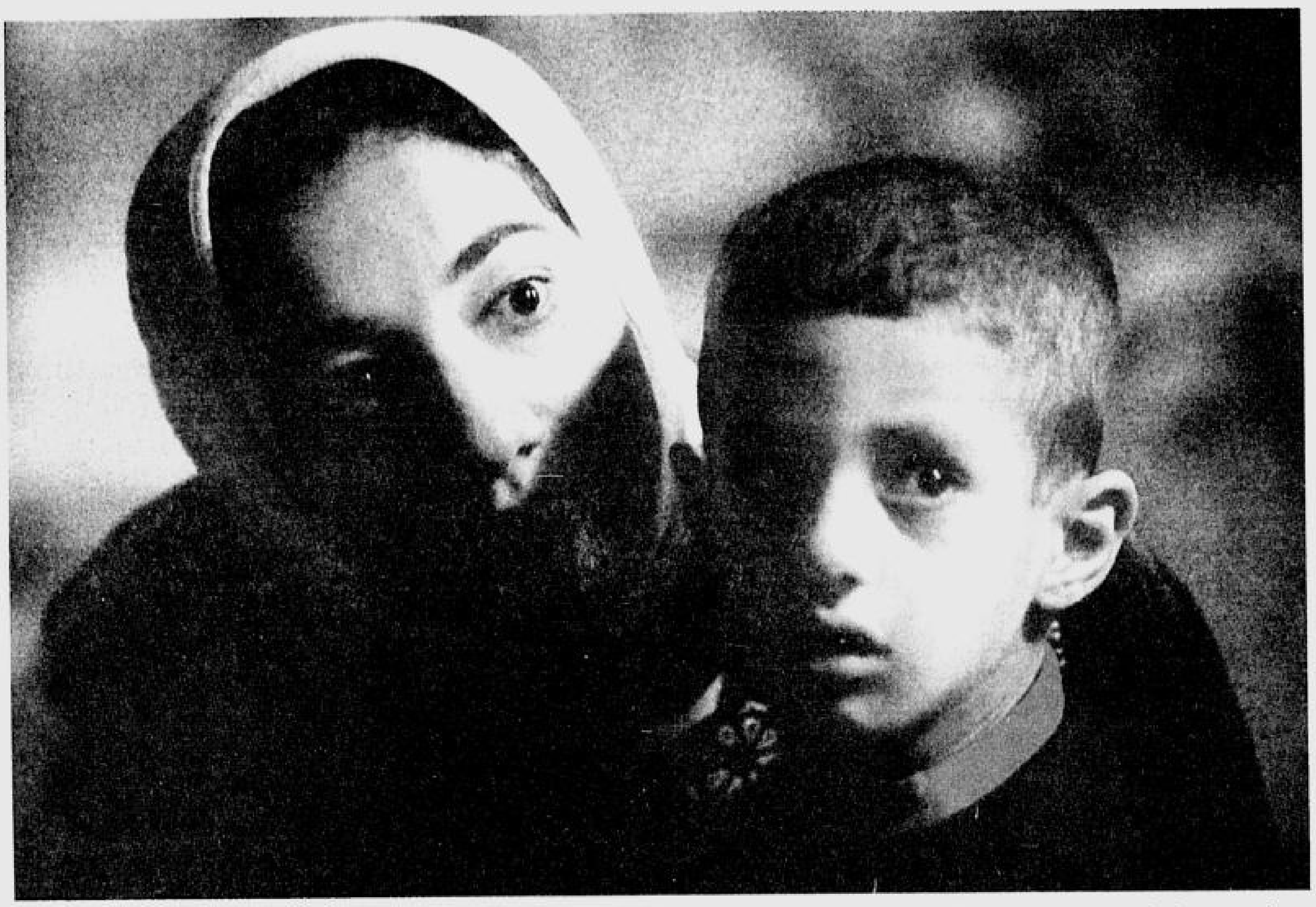
Ciampi said the attack wouldn't deter Italy's efforts to help the United States and other countries in the international fight against terrorism. He is due to travel to Washington shortly to meet with President Bush.

Since August, vehicle bombs have targeted several international buildings, including the United Nations headquarters, the offices of the international Red Cross, the Baghdad Hotel and the Turkish and Jordanian embassies in Baghdad.

Nasiriyah, a Shiite city, had been relatively quite in recent months, although it was the scene of heavy fighting during the war. It was where the 507th Maintenance Company was ambushed in March and where a number of Americans were captured, including Jessica Lynch.

Until Wednesday, there had been no combat-related fatalities among Italian troops serving in the multinational force.

In Baghdad, attackers fired mortars toward the US headquarters in Baghdad as America's top soldier in Iraq said insurgents had changed tactics to inflict more damage and casualties on American troops while reducing their own. *AP*



A TERRIFIED Iraqi woman holds her child as soldiers of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division search their house for weapons during a pre-dawn raid in Baquba on Nov. 12. REUTERS

Sri Lanka summit talks fail

COLOMBO—The first face-to-face talks between Sri Lanka's president and prime minister since their power struggle erupted into a political crisis last week ended Wednesday without a breakthrough, an official at the prime minister's office said.

"There was an exchange of views on various matters," Bradmon Weerakoon, secretary to the prime minister said. He did not elaborate, but said "both will consult their parties and get back next week to have more talks."

Another official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was neither a breakthrough nor a breakdown.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe met for two hours for the first time since Nov. 4, when Kumaratunga wrested control of the ministries of defense, interior and media from Wickremesinghe, claiming he has made too many concessions to the Tamil rebels. The president also suspended Parliament and briefly declared emergency rule.

The talks took place in a "cordial and friendly atmosphere," said a joint statement signed by Weerakoon and W. Karunaratne, secretary to the president. Both participated in the meeting.

"After an exchange of views on events leading to the present situation, the president and prime minister decided to move forward and continue the dialogue with all parties concerned," they said.

The meeting between the bitter rivals had been expected to ease concerns that their standoff could fracture a Norwegian-brokered ceasefire that halted 19 years of fighting between government and Tamil Tiger rebel forces in February 2002. *AP*

US bishops cooperate in sex abuse study

WASHINGTON—The leader of a watchdog panel appointed by US Roman Catholic bishops said she expected all dioceses to answer an unprecedented survey on clergy sex abuse that top Church officials had said would produce results that "add to our own sorrow."

Anne Burke, an Illinois appellate judge who is acting chair of the National Review Board, said about 80 percent of US dioceses had responded by mid-September, a response rate she called remarkable for such a complex report.

The study will count the number of abuse cases since 1950 and calculate related costs for legal settlements with victims, therapy for victims and offenders and attorneys fees.

When the survey was announced, some bishops expressed concern that information might be used in civil lawsuits against the Church and worried about confidentiality for priests included in the study. It was feared some bishops might not participate because of those concerns but Burke said she expects in the end all will participate.

Bishop Wilton Gregory, president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, warned that release of the report on Feb. 27, during the Lenten season, would be "unpleasant and painful."

"It will certainly add to our own sorrow," and would "add some pain to an already painful moment in the history of the Church," Gregory said.

Burke's progress report was made during the bishops' national meeting.

The 12-member panel is helping oversee several studies meant to find the extent of abuse in the church and the roots of the crisis that erupted in January 2002. A report on the causes of the scandal is scheduled to be released along with the statistical survey, which is being conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

The board also is working with the bishops' newly created Office of Child and Youth Protection on audits of all 195 US dioceses. Investigators are reviewing whether officials are complying with the Church's toughened discipline policy on guilty priests. The audit results are scheduled to be released Jan. 6.

William Burleigh, a member of the review board, told the bishops that the panel had worked to maintain its independence from the bishops as it oversaw the reviews. *AP*

Sanctions on Syria approved

WASHINGTON—The Senate agreed to broad new economic and trade sanctions on Syria Tuesday, citing Syria's long history of sheltering terrorists and its more recent failure to muzzle forces hostile to US actions in Iraq.

The Senate measure, passed 89-4, mirrors legislation the House of Representatives passed last month by 398-4. The only difference, an amendment offered by Senate foreign relations committee chair Dick Lugar, with input from the Bush administration, gives the president greater authority to waive sanctions for national security reasons.

The White House, which in principle opposes moves by Congress to restrict diplomatic options in dealing with problematic relations, has gone from opposing the Syria bill to accepting it as inevitable.

"We cannot have relationships with Syria and close our eyes to the truth, and the truth is that they are in fact supporting terrorism in ways that are very, very clear," said Sen. Barbara Boxer.

A group of US lawmakers traveling in the Middle East met Tuesday with Syrian President Bashar Assad and told him the sanctions were an expression of the frustration of Americans with countries that don't cooperate in the war on terrorism, said the delegation leader, Rep. Jim Kolbe.

Assad told the lawmakers that Syria was doing more to secure its border with Iraq and "does promise to continue to work with us on that," Kolbe said.

The United States has long complained that Syria was giving sanctuary to leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, two Palestinian groups designated as terrorist organizations by the State Department. *AP*

US millionaire found innocent of murder

GALVESTON, Texas—New York real estate heir Robert Durst, who said he accidentally killed a hot-headed neighbor in self-defense and then chopped up the body because he feared no one would believe him, was found innocent of murder.

The jury took five days to reach the verdict, bringing a startling end to a grisly case that began to unfold when trash bags containing pieces of 71-year-old Morris Black started washing up along Galveston Bay in 2001.

Durst appeared stunned when he heard the verdict on Tuesday, his mouth hanging slightly open and his eyes filling with tears. The 60-year-old millionaire hugged his attorneys, saying: "Thank you so much."

Durst is the son of the late Seymour Durst, patriarch of the Durst Organization, a privately held, billion-dollar real estate company that owns several New York City skyscrapers. Robert Durst has been estranged from his family since the early 1990s.

He remains under suspicion in the 1982 disappearance of his first wife and the 2000 shooting death of her friend Susan Berman, a Los Angeles writer who was set to be questioned about the missing woman. He has not been charged in either case.

Prosecutor Kurt Sistrunk said he was dismayed and disappointed with the verdict.

If he had been convicted, Durst could have been sentenced to between five and 99 years in prison.

DURST (right) embraces one of his lawyers after his acquittal. AP

Durst met Black after moving from New York to Galveston, where the millionaire initially posed as a mute woman to escape attention in the two other deaths. He later dropped the masquerade and became friends with Black, who lived across the hall from him in a low-rent apartment building.

Durst's attorneys said the friendship soured because of the elderly man's increasingly belligerent behavior. Durst and other witnesses testified Black often flew into rages and got into fights.

During nearly four days on the stand, Durst testified that he found Black in his apartment on Sept. 28, 2001, and that Black had Durst's gun. During a struggle, the gun went off, hitting Black in the face, he said.

Durst testified that he panicked and feared police would not believe his story, so he used two saws and an ax to cut up the body and then threw the pieces into Galveston Bay. The victim's head has never been found.

He said he could not recall details about dismembering the body, but when pressed by a prosecutor, he said it was "a nightmare with blood everywhere."

Prosecutors called Durst a cold-blooded killer who shot Black to steal his identity. They said the proof was how he meticulously covered up the crime by cutting up the body, cleaning the crime scene, fleeing Galveston and then returning to retrieve the head.

"Is it well-planned and calculated? You bet it is," Sistrunk said.

In a risky, all-or-nothing strategy by both the prosecution and the defense, the jury was allowed to consider only murder, not lesser charges such as manslaughter. For now, Durst will remain in jail facing a bail-jumping count, which could bring up to 10 years in prison.

Defense attorney Dick DeGuerin praised the jurors for "their ability to look at this case for what the charge was."

Prosecutor Joel Bennett said many jurors told him after the verdict that one of the problems in the case was that Black's head was never recovered. Prosecutors alleged that Durst made sure the head was never found because it could have proved Black's death was intentional.

Juror Chris Lovell said he was influenced by a lack of consistency in the prosecution's case: "From the very beginning of this trial the defense told us a story and they stuck to their guns all the way through. I did not believe everything they said, but every time they told us a story they were consistent in what was said." *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Marriott bombing suspect goes on trial

JAKARTA—The first suspect charged in connection with the Aug. 5 bombing of the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Jakarta went on trial Wednesday, facing the death penalty for allegedly storing explosive materials used in the attack. Sardona Siliwangi was charged with violating recently passed antiterror laws, said state prosecutor Sudihardjo. He was put on trial in Bengkulu on Sumatra island, where he was arrested two months before the Marriot blast, which killed 12 people and wounded 150. "He was entrusted to store explosive materials which were later used in the Marriott Hotel bombing, but he did not report them to security authorities," Sudihardjo, who goes by a single name, said by telephone from Bengkulu. *AP*

Plan for Islamic state in Malaysia bared

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's Islamist opposition party, the main threat to the multi-racial government coalition, unveiled on Wednesday its plans for an orthodox Islamic state, including strict sharia laws. Leaders of Parti Islam se-Malaysia (PAS), publishing a 53-page document with an eye to national polls due within the year, said the Islamic way of life was the only way to overcome the pitfalls of Western-style democracy. "Islam is our raison d'etre," Abdul Hadi Awang, leader of the country's largest opposition party, told party loyalists. He said PAS would amend the federal constitution if it wins power in the next election, which Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is widely expected to hold in early 2004, to accommodate its plans for a pure Islamic state. *AFP*

Palestine PM calls for peace talks

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia on Wednesday called for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire with Israel and a return to peace talks based on President Bush's vision for two states. Qureia issued the call at a parliament session at which he was expected to win approval for his new Cabinet. "Our fate is to live together on this land for us and our dreams, for our sons and grandsons... instead of violence and terrorism," Qureia said. He said he was seeking a timetable "to implement mutual obligations of the road map beginning with an agreement for a mutual and comprehensive ceasefire." *AP*

Afghanistan enters most critical phase

UNITED NATIONS—Afghanistan has entered "the most critical phase in the peace process" as it heads toward elections, beset by warlords, terrorism and massive drug trafficking that could turn the country into a "narco-state," a UN Security Council mission reported after a weeklong visit to the country. Germany's UN Ambassador Gunter Pleuger, who led the mission, told an open meeting of the council Tuesday that insecurity caused by terrorist activities, factional fighting and drug-related crimes threaten prospects for peace two years after the Taliban's fall. "The mission clearly saw how the lack of security— 'the rule of the gun'—affected the entire Afghan peace process," he said. *AP*

Protesters camp in on 400-yr-old tree

HOBART, Australia—Protesters from around the world scaled a giant 400-year-old tree on 'Wednesday and vowed to camp in its branches to protect it from being pulped for paper.

Activists from local groups and Greenpeace converged on a forest in the Styx Valley in Tasmania, Australia's southern island state, to protect the trees—some of which are as high as a 25-story building and are among the tallest hardwood trees in the world.

The valley is a candidate for world heritage site status.

Campaigners say the area is due for logging and the protest is aimed at saving the trees and publicizing the practice of chopping them down to make woodchips.

"We want people to know that woodchip exports are killing one of the world's most valuable forests," Greenpeace campaign manager Danny Kennedy said. "Importers should source woodchips from plantations, not ancient forests."

Four protesters—a German, a Japanese, a Canadian and an Australian—are camping in one of the trees 65 meters above the ground and plan to stay there until their demands are met, Felicity Wade of the Australia-based Wilderness Society said.

The protesters want the federal government to make the area a national park.

The Australian government said 40 percent of Tasmania's forests were protected and that the issue was not open for discussion.

"This was all determined six years ago and the federal government won't be revisiting its decision," said Conservation Minister Ian Macfarlane.

Wade said the Styx Valley trees were second only in height to the North American Redwood. They are over 400 years old and up to 5 meters wide at the base.

The World Heritage Foundation has already identified the Styx Valley as entitled to being listed as a world heritage site, but the federal government had yet to endorse the move, she said.

Such a listing would protect the region from loggers. Although Tasmania's rugged scenery and ancient forests are a major tourist attraction, the trees also provide jobs in the logging industry. *AP*

WHO steps up action against fake medicines

GENEVA—The World Health Organization on Tuesday launched a drive against counterfeit drugs in Southeast Asia, where it is feared that millions of people are being duped by fake and potentially dangerous drugs that are supposed to treat AIDS, malaria and other killers.

The UN health agency said the initiative, launched at a meeting in Vietnam, mirrored action recently taken in Africa and was in response to pleas from governments anxious to combat the criminal gangs behind the fake drug industry, which is annually worth an estimated $32 billion globally.

"Combating low quality or illegal medicines is now more important than ever," said Dr. Lee Jong-wook, WHO director general. "Expanding access to safe, effective treatment for AIDS and other illnesses is no longer an option, it is an imperative."

In industrialized countries, the most frequently counterfeited medicines are "lifestyle" drugs such as Viagra which is sold widely over the Internet, thus frustrating the task of control bodies.

In poor countries, up to 25 percent of medicines on the market are estimated to be fake or of bad quality and so have little impact against life-threatening conditions such as malaria.

Dr. Clive Ondari, who works in WHO's essential drugs unit, said this caused an estimated 200,000 unnecessary deaths each year from the mosquito-borne disease.

The WHO wants to help governments draw up more effective legislation, improve their screening and surveillance procedures, boost cooperation between customs and health authorities, and heighten public awareness of the risks. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, November 13, 2003
32nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wis 7:22-8:1
Gospel: Lk 17:20-25

The Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God was to come. He answered, "The kingdom of God is not like something you can observe and say of it: 'Look, here it is! There it is!' See, the kingdom of God is among you."

And Jesus said to his disciples, "The time is at hand when you will long to see one of the glorious days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. Then people will tell you: 'Look there! Look here!' Do not go, do not follow them. As lightning flashes from one end of the sky to the other, so will it be with the Son of Man. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this people."

Commentary

"For God loves only those who live with wisdom." King Solomon was known for his wisdom. He did not ask for long life nor riches but instead begged Yahweh to grant him understanding, that he may discern between good and evil so that he may govern wisely the people of Israel. Solomon knew that true wisdom comes from above, it is given by God. The closer one gets to God, the wiser one becomes. God is like the sun that allows us to see everything in its proper place. Are you a wise person? Are you close to God?

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NOTICE OF MEETING ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF MEMBERS

To All PICPA Members:

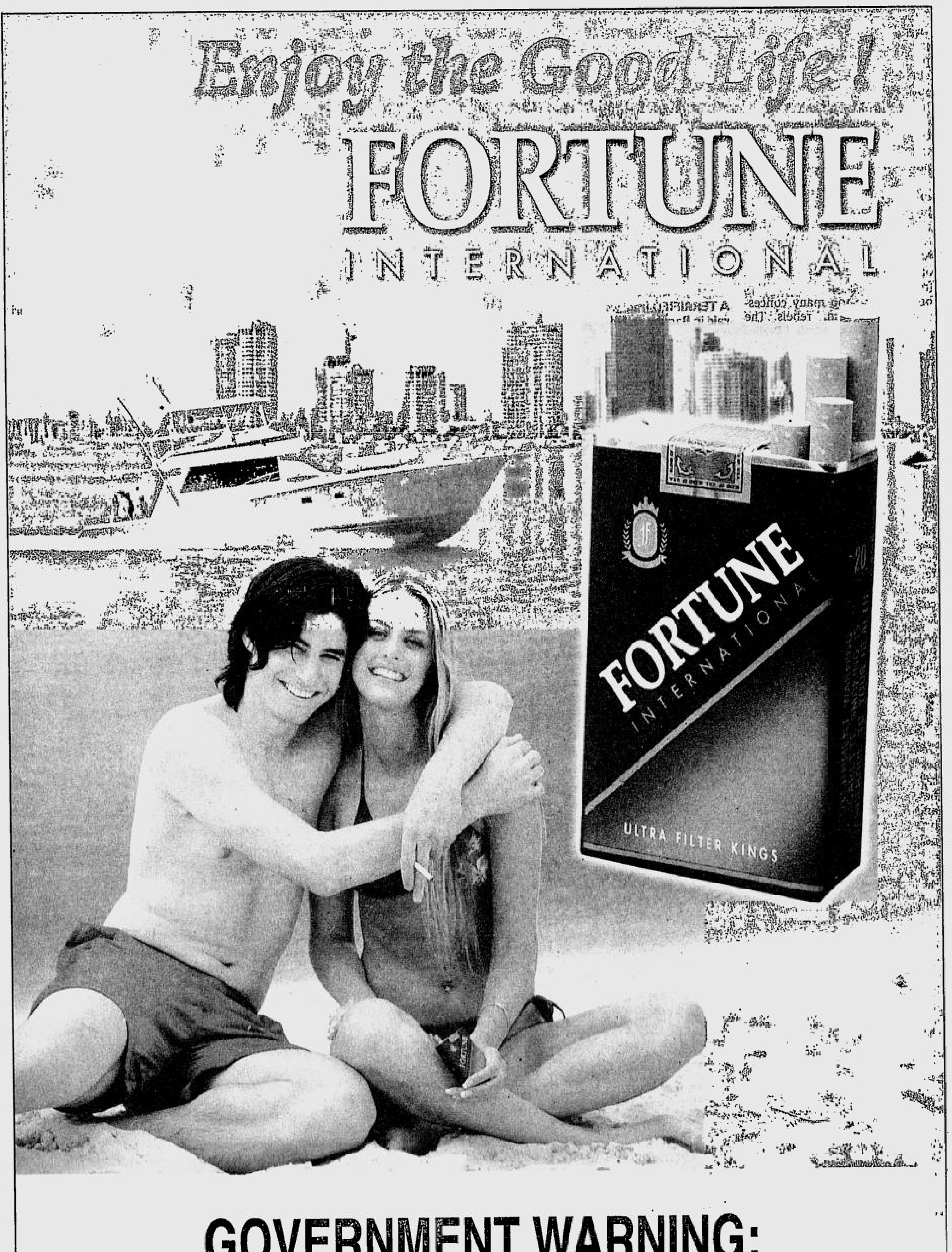
In accordance with the provision of Article XII, Section 1 of the By-Laws of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, notice is hereby given that the Annual Business Meeting of Members will be on Friday, November 28, 2003 at 3:00 p.m., Albay Astrodome, Legaspi City.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Required Notice of Meeting
3. Determination of Quorum
4. Reading and Approval of Minutes of Previous Annual Business Meeting held on November 29, 2002
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. COMELEC Time
8. Ratification of Amendments to PICPA By-Laws (as required)
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

We urge all members to attend the Annual Business Meeting. If you cannot be present in person during the meeting, please accomplish a general proxy form at the PICPA Secretariat Office.

JESSIE D. CABALUNA
National Secretary



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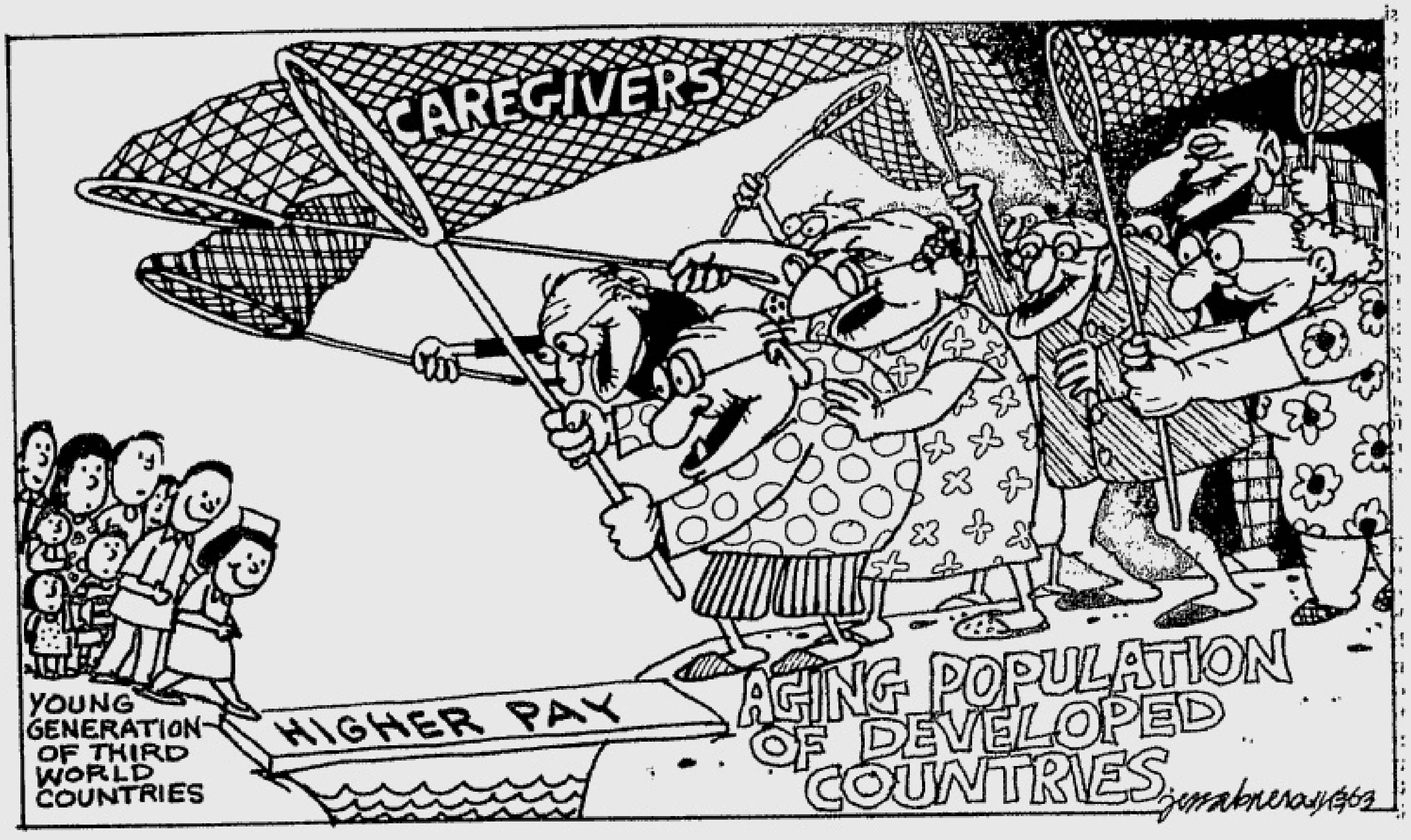
CAREGIVERS
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jimabrera 11/13/03

Turning point

EDITORIAL

THE COUNTRY pulled back from the brink of a potentially explosive constitutional crisis last Monday after the Supreme Court declared as unconstitutional the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

The decision was the turning point in averting a plunge into chaos. It came down just as Congress, the Court and even the presidency were moving toward a three-cornered showdown over the impeachment complaint which the House of Representatives was poised to transmit to the Senate for trial.

The Court's decisive exercise of its constitutional duty to intervene in breaking stand-offs over vexatious constitutional issues touched off a chain of events reinforcing its authority, chief of which was the declaration of Speaker Jose de Venecia that he was "constrained" to obey the decision. The rally of the House majority behind the Speaker signaled the extraordinary closing of the ranks by both House and the presidency to uphold authority of the Supreme Court—which faced the most audacious attack in nearly a century with the impeachment complaint against the Chief Justice—to pronounce what is the law of the land.

The acknowledgement by the political organs of the state of the Court's duty to uphold the rule of law—in this case, striking down the impeachment complaint as illegal—delivered the death blow to the impeachment complaint and took the wind out of the sails of the escalating political gridlock. It led to the political isolation of the minority in the House which spearheaded the impeachment action, provoking the impasse.

The Nov. 11 intervention of the Court was the second time in three years that the high tribunal averted a slide toward civil strife. The first was in January 2001, when the Court went out of its way to swear in as President, the then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, following the effective collapse of the government of deposed President Joseph Estrada, brought about by the withdrawal of the support of the armed forces for the Estrada regime.

In both the 2001 crisis and the impeachment showdown, the Court was compelled to intervene by the motivation to prevent deadlocks from igniting chaos and anarchy fostered by the incendiary polarization of conflicting groups marching in the streets.

The Court's intervention came before the gridlock reached the explosive stage where tumultuous people power—as in January 2001 and in February 1986—could decide the outcome of the impeachment impasse.

It is a good sign that the impeachment impasse was resolved not in the streets but by existing institutional arrangements.

What was dangerous about that impasse is that the Court, as the institutional bedrock of the rule of law in a democracy, was itself under assault from forces that questioned the integrity of the Chief Justice. The Supreme Court emerged stronger—although not unscathed—from this test of the viability of the system of checks of balances. At the height of the crisis, the Court drew strong public opinion support, indicating that Filipinos have a deep-seated confidence in the Court more than they have in the political departments. Confidence in the judicial system, despite its many shortcomings, from the political departments, was also shown by the declarations of the presidency and of the Senate president that they would obey the Court's resolution on the constitutionality of the impeachment complaint even before the Court's resolution had been handed down.

We cannot, however, be complacent that the diversion of the deadlock from being decided on the streets and by the mob that the institutions of democracy are strong enough to resolve conflict without violence. Both in 2001 and in the impeachment showdown, the fabric of rule of law was severely stretched and tested to the limit. In both crises, the specter of chaos and military intervention always loomed dangerously. Indeed, the impeachment conflict was immediately preceded by the failed July 27 military mutiny.

We cannot afford to be always stretching to the breaking point the limits of constitutional tolerance to attacks on our democratic institutions, much more so the Supreme Court. If we were lucky from averting chaos this time, we can't be pushing our luck too hard. Next time around, we might not pull back from the edge.

Stop buying vehicles for public officials

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

AFTER THE YELLOW lanes for buses, the Metro Manila Development Authority has thought up yellow lanes for jeepneys. I suppose after that there will be yellow lanes for taxicabs and more yellow lanes for cargo trucks. That will really improve traffic because private vehicles will no longer be allowed to get out into the streets—there will be no more lanes for them.

Let's take Edsa for example, one of the widest streets in the Philippines. It has five lanes going each way. Two lanes are already reserved for buses. The MMDA says "one or two lanes" will be reserved for jeepneys. That makes four. Only one lane is left for private vehicles. If one lane is reserved for taxicabs, and another for cargo trucks, that makes six. Edsa won't be big enough for them. Even if only one lane is reserved for jeepneys, that still makes five. Still no space left for private vehicles.

We're talking here of Edsa, a very wide street. What about the narrower streets with only two or three lanes? Even if only one lane each is reserved for buses and jeepneys, and no lanes are reserved for taxicabs and cargo trucks, that leaves only one lane for all the rest of the vehicles.

I think I know what the MMDA is trying to do. It wants to phase out private vehicles, make them obsolete. It wants the people to take public transportation: the Metrorail and Light Rail Transit, buses and jeepneys. Makes sense. After all, private vehicles take up the most space on the streets. At the same time, they carry less passengers. Most cars usually carry only one or two passengers each; a jeepney carries a dozen or more passengers, and buses as much as a hundred of them. But they occupy space equivalent to that occupied by only two or three cars. The elevated rails carry even more people faster, without occupying any space on the streets as the trains are up there all by their lonesome.

In fact, more people would like to leave their cars behind and take the elevated rails because they are much faster and above the air pollution, but there are not enough trains to take them. So I don't understand why they don't add more trains and coaches to accommodate the demand. More passengers, more income, *'di ba?*

Unless the reason is that the government already subsidizes the rail lines. The national government guarantees their minimum income. Like the jeepneys (and the independent producers of electricity), the rail lines also operate on the boundary system. If they don't earn the minimum guaranteed, the government pays the difference. So why bother to invest more in additional trains and coaches when you already make oodles of money without half-trying?

* * *

With all due respect to the MMDA, I think it misses the crux of the traffic problem in Metro Manila: there are just too many vehicles for the too few streets.

Traffic rules are not strictly enforced by the incompetent traffic aides and the corrupt policemen. Painting and fencing the streets won't solve the problem; strictly enforcing traffic rules and reducing the number of vehicles will.

The yellow lanes, for example, are being violated with impunity by the buses. Nobody arrests the drivers. Buses and jeepneys load, unload and wait for passengers in the yellow boxes at intersections that are supposed to be kept clear of vehicles at all times. Nobody arrests the drivers or even tells them to move on even if there are cops and traffic aides nearby. Either they don't know the traffic rules themselves or they are taking *tong* from the drivers.

If the government will only fine all the traffic violators, including the jaywalkers, and the money goes to the treasury and not to private pockets, the budget deficit and the foreign debt will be paid. And the traffic will improve, too.

* * *

On Page A18 of yesterday's Inquirer is one big reason for the traffic congestion. The Bulacan provincial government bought in three months—from June to August this year—at the taxpayers' expense, (hold your breath) 53, yes, 53, motor vehicles. Imagine how much space those 53 vehicles will take up in the streets. Why too many, too soon?

According to a complaint filed with the Ombudsman against Gov. Josie de la Cruz by an NGO, Bumago Ka, the reason is that the vehicles were bought from Freeway Motor Sales of Baliwag Corp., "a dealership controlled by the De la Cruz family."

Congress should pass a law to stop this abuse and rampant wastage of the people's money. Provincial, city and municipal governments, government financial institutions and other government agencies, including the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, buy vehicles for their officials at the people's expense, when these officials already have their own vehicles. These officials include board members and councilors who attend board meetings only once or twice a month. Why do they have to be provided with government vehicles? Worse, these officials have invented car plans that give the cars to them, practically for free, after a few years.

It is understandable why public works engineers or health workers who have to go to the hinterlands frequently have to be provided with vehicles, but not board members. Luxury ones, at that.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: The "agaw-pirma" campaign at the House of Representatives at the height of the impeachment crisis was like a "buy one, take one" sales promotion. You withdraw your signature, you can withdraw from the bank.

Losers all

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THERE are no winners here, only losers.

The first loser is easy to see. I saw it outside the gates of the Batasan last Monday afternoon. The PMAP, the group that spearheaded the riots at Mendiola three years ago, was there at one side of the gate, in full force and in red, carrying placards that damned the "GMA-Davide *sabwatan*" (conspiracy) and shouting slogans along those lines. Clearly, GMA's decision to stand beside Corazon Aquino and Hilario Davide during a Mass at the Supreme Court for Davide was not lost on Erap's hordes.

At the other side of the gate was the group opposing Congress' move to impeach Davide. They wore black and carried placards that damned the "GMA-Cojuangco *sabwatan*," and took turns making speeches on a makeshift platform to press the point. Just as clearly, Danding Cojuangco's sudden recovery of his ill-gotten wealth in San Miguel and the equally sudden coming together of the NPC and Lakas at the Batasan were not lost on the Edsa II forces.

A week before this, the papers had just reported that the "constitutional crisis" was wrecking GMA's image completely. At the very least, she was being seen as an ineffectual President—there was a "crisis in leadership," Raul Roco suggested—at the very most, she was being seen as a most conspiratorial one.

The lesson was simple, which Aesop, who lived centuries before Christ, could have told Gloria: You try to please everyone, you'll end up pleasing no one.

The second loser is just as easy to see. One is tempted to say that unlike military coup plotters who are punished after a failed coup, political coup plotters get away scot-free. But in fact the opposite is true: military coup plotters are not punished at all after a failed coup, while political coup plotters are punished all the time. As they richly deserve.

Jose de Venecia may have survived a threat to unseat him—though he never really had reason to worry, the company he keeps preferring to use their energies to unseat only those who do not deserve it—but he will never get to rule this country ever. The Cha-cha, which he has been at pains to ram through despite near-universal public indifference to it because it is the only way he can become head of government, as prime minister, is dead in the water. The attempt to impeach Davide for a second time has demonstrated beyond a shadow of doubt the infinite dangers of reposing power in a mob, the kind particularly that likes quoting Scripture to serve its purposes.

Just as well, the House excuse for impeaching Davide, which is the misuse of the JDF, has stoked interest in, and scrutiny of, the uses of public funds. That will come back to haunt Congress itself. One anti-Davide advertisement in the Inquirer said the JDF is not Davide's and may not be used for personal ends. The same thing might be said more trenchantly about the CDF, or what is now called the Priority Development Assistance Fund, and what will always be called "pork barrel." As Dennis Arroyo reminded us in an article last Monday in Business ("Look into pork barrel corruption"), the CDF, or PDAF, **by itself**, quite apart from its uses, puts money in the hands of congressmen for personal use.

The congressman uses his fund to reward barangays that voted for him and punish those that did not. If there's anything left after awarding his kin and friends with contracts. You can't have any more institutionalized privatization of public funds than that. The CDF's very existence is an iniquity. The logical thing is to scrap it and give the money to local officials. The judiciary has no power to impeach De Venecia, but the public does. Or its equivalent, which is remove him permanently from office with the vote.

Which brings me to the worst punishment of all: that should come in May next year. The congressmen who moved to impeach Davide will suffer the same fate as GMA for the same reason. They will have pissed off the Erap horde who expected them to avenge their idol, and they will have pissed off everybody else who expected them to retain some decency. Those who try to please everyone truly end up pleasing no one.

Davide himself won't come away from this unscathed. Impeachment was clearly not the solution to the problem raised by the court personnel, but a scrupulous accounting of the JDF is. Until that is settled, a cloud of doubt will continue to hover over Davide, which could subvert his efficacy as the prime dispenser of justice. I personally think he is a decent man—certainly far more than his detractors—and does not deserve this, but unfortunately, unlike the court of law he knows so well, the court of public opinion he does not tend to invert things, presuming people guilty until proven innocent. The sooner he proves his innocence, the better it will be for him and the institution he serves.

Well, he can always prove Nietzsche's proposition that what doesn't kill you will make you stronger.

The judiciary loses from this as well. It is bound to remind people it has a reputation for harboring "hoodlums in robes." Well, I personally do not mind that it loses this way. It ought to. The irony of the effort to impeach Davide is that it misses the point completely. The corruption in the judiciary is not to be found in the uses of the JDF, it is to be found in the rulings and issuances of TROs by judges. That truly perverts justice. And it should be stopped. I do not mind that Congress bestirs itself to stop it, though I doubt it will. Congress has nothing to gain from it—except truth and justice.

But in the end, the biggest loser here is not the executive, the legislative and/or the judiciary. It is the nation and the system it upholds.

Should we wonder why the world is laughing at our democracy?

Joe de V's hand strengthened

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AFTER THE HOUSE caucus last Monday noon, attended by various parties led by Lakas, established the House's majority stand (a vote of 104 lawmakers vs. one anti), as articulated by Speaker Jose de Venecia, to fully support the Supreme Court's decision to declare the impeachment move against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. unconstitutional, the battle quickly shifted to the House session hall, where the Nationalist People's Coalition and its allies in the LDP assailed the ruling of the chair of support for the court. NPC stalwart Rep. Ronaldo Zamora moved for a reconsideration of De Venecia's ruling and some of his allies appeared determined to call for a vote defying the high court. A division of the House was then called, which entailed the oral explanation of every member of his vote on the motion. Beginning at 6 p.m., the voting closed at 5 the following morning, with 115 supporting JDV's ruling and 77 against it. The NPC and the LDP stuck together in the anti-group, while all out for JDV, aside from the majority of his Lakas party, were 23 Liberals led by party president Florencio Abad (except for Samar's Rep. Harlyn Abayon), the majority of the party-list members including the militant leftists, except for the Cibac lawmakers.

* * *

After the defeat of the reconsideration move, Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, by force of habit, moved to declare all House seats vacant, beginning with the Speaker's (the eighth such attempt by Dilangalen). But realizing that the NPC-LDP bloc did not have the numbers, he withdrew his motion, doubtless to raise it another time, another day. But De Venecia, his hand strengthened by the crisis that had ebbed, by then sought to normalize the chamber after the three-week madness. He appealed to the NPC to preserve the coalition for the sake of various urgent legislations that have been sidelined, among them the national budget bill for 2004, deliberations on which will resume on Monday. Business as usual again, or so we hope.

* * *

Many court personnel across the country have been restive over their failure to win salary increases and this has exacerbated the recent national debate over the impeachment move against Davide. NPC pro-impeachment lawmakers such as Camarines Sur Rep. Felix William Fuentebella and General Santos Rep. Darlene Custodio have used the court personnel's gripes to intensify their anti-Davide campaign, as they alleged his misuse of the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF) from which court living allowances are derived by law. But the court personnel's gripes appear to be misdirected, as the party responsible for their complaint was not Davide but Congress itself, which passed a law increasing by 100 percent the "special allowances" of justices and judges to be sourced from the JDF.

* * *

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Rosales has said in a press statement that Fuentebella and Custodio were "barking up the wrong tree," as they and 26 other pro-impeachment House members were co-authors of House Bill 5178 which granted those increases in "special allowances," with only the "surplus" to be allotted to the court personnel. HB 5178 was consolidated with Senate Bill 2018, authored by Sen. Francis Pangilinan, into RA 9227 signed into law by President Macapagal last Oct. 23, the day the impeachment against Davide was filed in the House. Rosales charged that Fuentebella, Custodio and the other pro-impeachment lawmakers failed to espouse the cause of the court personnel, implying that there was a lot of pretenses on their part.

* * *

Interestingly, as I related earlier, in a dialogue with INQUIRER editors and reporters, Fuentebella said that what got him involved in the anti-Davide impeachment move was after a group of regional trial court personnel from his province called on him late last year to protest their exclusion from the House bill that sought to grant the 100 percent increase in allowances to the judges and justices, but which excluded the court employees. Fuentebella stressed that that visit encouraged him to look into the possible misuse of the JDF. An award-winning clerk of court from the Iriga City Regional Trial Court, Lelu Contreras, whose family has been close to the Fuentebellas, however, disputed his good intentions and asserted that Wimpy, far from being the knight in shining armor crusading for the court personnel, in fact co-authored that bill increasing allowances for judges and justices; moreover, she lamented that the lawmaker absented himself from the second and third hearing deliberations on the bill and voted for its passage, abandoning the employees.

* * *

Representative Rosales charges that in order to accommodate the increase in justices' and judges' salaries over a four-year period, RA 9227 amended PD 1949, which set up the JDF in 1984 from court fees. She stressed that the PD was very clear: 80 percent of JDF funds should go to the economic benefits of personnel, with the bigger allowances granted to those receiving a basic salary of less than P1,000 a month (by today's standards, that's now equivalent to P4,525); corollarily, it provided that no more than 20 percent to office equipment and court facilities. Rosales stressed that the new law went against the spirit and intention of the PD in allocating the lion's share for the justices' and judges' special allowances, noting that, in fact, in case the JDF is not enough for those special allowances, the national government has to subsidize it by an amount not exceeding P165 million on the fourth year.

To be fair, SB 2018 authored by Senator Pangilinan had a most laudable intention, which was to address the perennial shortage of judges in the lower courts by making the pay package attractive for applicants to the bench. And from indications, this move was successful (more on this next time).

Old and boring, but still deadly

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THOUGH the total number of TB cases in the United States has been going down steadily since 1992, when federal and state governments poured resources into anti-TB programs in response to an upsurge of the disease there, health authorities still count 40 new TB cases a day in the country.

Of these, 75 percent occur among African-Americans and the "foreign-born." Ken Castro, director of the Division of TB Elimination for the US Centers for Disease Control, says that some 25 percent of foreign-born Americans with TB count Mexico as their country of origin, making the US-Mexico border a "hotspot" for TB. But what's most interesting for us Filipinos is that the next biggest group of foreign-born Americans with TB, some 11 percent, are Fil-Ams.

This struck the Filipino participants in the workshop on TB advocacy as strange, since we were aware of the stringent health requirements that legal Filipino migrants to the States have to meet. I'm sure anyone who's traveled to the US have spotted Pinoy travelers clutching those large plastic envelopes containing their X-ray results, a sure giveaway of one's immigrant status.

Perhaps the operative word here is "legal." Could it be that most of the Filipinos with TB in the US slipped through the cracks of the healthcare and immigration system because they were TNT?

All it takes to start a TB contagion is a single person with active TB, who can spread the disease among those he lives and works with simply by coughing into the air. At the same time, all it takes to stem the route of transmission is to treat that person with TB and test everyone else he's come in contact with. Doctors say that as little as a week after starting a course of TB treatment, a person with TB ceases to be infectious.

* * *

"DISEASES of mass destruction," is how Dr. Lee Reichman, chair of the US National Coalition on the Elimination of Tuberculosis, calls TB and other diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS. Compared to the toll on lives of "old" and "boring" diseases like TB, the threat from diseases that have recently captured the popular imagination decidedly pales in comparison. Here's an "epidemic scorecard" as compiled by Reichman: TB kills from two-three million people a year around the world, the death toll due to SARS is 813, Ebola (from a recent outbreak) 244, West Nile virus 232, anthrax five and smallpox zero.

And yet, compared to all the hysteria that SARS managed to raise in the past year—and the consequent and unprecedented outpouring of resources and official attention to battle the disease—TB only elicits yawns and musings along the lines of "so what else is new?"

Participants at the advocacy workshop—public health officials and anti-TB advocates from California, Texas, Virginia, Missouri, Florida, Alabama and Georgia—also brought up their exasperation at the way in which official concern about "bio-terrorism" has sucked resources and personnel from programs to fight more basic and real health threats, like TB.

* * *

ONE difficulty is that TB advocates have a mixed message to convey. One part is that TB is under control, that health authorities know what causes it and what cures it, and that the cure is relatively low-cost and accessible. But the other part is that a country becomes complacent about TB at its own risk, that an "outbreak" can start anytime, anywhere, and so resources for efforts toward its eradication must be protected.

To help the participants package this mixed message and work better with partners in the media, three journalists took part in a panel to share how the news media work and how health authorities can communicate better.

The three were Kitta MacPherson, science reporter for the Newark Star-Ledger; Anita Manning, science reporter for USA Today who was described by an editor as their reporter on "infectious diseases and other menacing microbes"; and Frank O'Donnell, a former broadcaster and print journalist now the executive director of the Clean Air Trust.

"News is something that happens to an editor where he lives," is Manning's wry definition of news, the result of years of wrangling with editors who still must be convinced that there's "news value" in "diseases of mass destruction" that may kill millions but in remote and decidedly unglamorous places. Media attention, the three pointed out, is neither predictable nor logical, feeding as it does on public perception.

Manning recounts that last year she was writing stories on the West Nile virus practically every day, "until I was fairly sick of it." There have been more cases of the disease in the US this year, but so far, she said, she's written maybe just two or three stories on the virus. "We got used to it," she said, shrugging.

* * *

THERE was quite a heated discussion, sparked by the TB controller of Florida, who objected to the use of the word "outbreak" to describe the discovery of a single case of TB, as occurred in his jurisdiction when an airport worker was found to be positive for TB and the media attention almost resulted in the closure of the airport.

While she would not personally use "outbreak" to characterize a single case, MacPherson says such an inflammatory term can prove useful, if only because it calls public and thus official attention to a public health problem. "Try to focus on your message" was Manning's advice.

"I would kill for an outbreak!" exclaimed Reichman, who is credited with almost singlehandedly provoking the public response to an upsurge of TB in the US in the early 1990's. Sometimes, scare tactics are needed, if only to remind people that there's still need to act against an "old, boring" disease like TB.

Season of despair

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

AFTER I USED the letter of a reader named Julie in this space two weeks ago, readers wrote to also express their exasperation about what has been going on in this country in the past weeks. Julie amplified the bottled up feelings of so many people with such spontaneity, it encouraged others to spill out theirs. Julie's letter was obviously written at the spur of the moment and one could almost visualize the froth in her mouth and hear her hyperventilating. Writing that letter was her way of managing her anger, her despair, she said, and could I just listen please?

The seizing of the airport control tower early Saturday morning said a lot about despair and desperate men.

Last Friday I went to bed very late because I had to rush a story that was supposed to be used for what we call "positive Sunday." (Well, last Sunday's front page turned out to be anything but positive and my story will have to wait another Sunday.) I had not yet completed my quota of sleep very early Saturday morning when my cell phone beeped. A wicked fellow INQUIRER staff writer texted: *"O tulog ka ng tulog dyan habang kamuntik na nman mg kudeta."* Jeez, I thought, some insomniacs of this world just can't leave non-insomniacs alone. I reached for the remote anyway and switched on the TV. I saw corpses wrapped in blankets being wheeled away.

Two armed persons, one a former assistant cabinet secretary and the other, a captain, had just seized the airport control tower in the wee hours of the morning in order to shout out their frustrations, so that government would do something, for things to change. SWAT men stormed the tower and gunned them down. The shooting was over in minutes. There were no negotiations.

What a desperate act, I thought, how desperate these men were that they would hold hostage this country in order to be heard. My condolences to the bereaved families. I cannot fathom their pain.

If you ask me, seizing an airport control tower and putting thousands of lives in mid-air in grave danger was not something for the negotiating table. The armed duo could have chosen a media network instead, (please, not the INQUIRER) and they could have had all the cameras and microphones. So why a control tower?

Obviously it was the easiest for former Air Transportation Office chief Panfilo Villaruel because he was the one who built it. (One text message said: "They shot the wrong Panfilo.") He had, in fact, been frequently going in and out of there and had free access to the area. He was a former boss and was supposedly doing research.

The following day, the INQUIRER headline declared "He's not alone." Meaning that aside from Navy Ltsg. Ricardo Catchillar who died with Villaruel, there could have been others behind the daring move. Authorities were quick in shooting down this scenario. It was "an isolated case." So they were saying that Villaruel might have acted alone, with Catchillar as sidekick.

But it is hard to believe that one desperate man would succeed in finding another man so equally desperate who would tag along to help carry out the plan. The latter would probably want to do things his own way.

Have your ever seen a desperate man, say a hostage taker, recruit someone to join him? Or an equally disgruntled fellow jump into the fray to assist?

I think Villaruel and Catchillar were not just by themselves. I could believe that Villaruel could act alone, out of desperation, as someone suffering from temporary insanity (no offense meant). But I find it hard to believe that Catchilllar would risk his life to join someone who was acting alone.

If Villaruel went up that tower by his lonesome and survived the SWAT assault, his lawyers could later invoke temporary insanity or Villaruel could willingly go to prison and say at least he had spoken out loud. But when you have someone with you, that is another story. There could be conspirators somewhere. So who were they? And why didn't they emerge to back them up?

The Villaruel and Catchillar families should first try to find out who pushed these two men to their slaughter before they vent their ire on the law enforcers who risked their lives when they rushed to the tower to neutralize the duo. Who knew what awaited the SWAT team up there?

I don't think Villaruel and Catchillar were suicidal. Otherwise, they could just have strapped explosives around their bodies and clambered up some belfry and threatened to blow themselves up and the structure. With Villaruel's stature, they would have gotten even more media attention. And they could have come out of it alive, in handcuffs perhaps, with fewer innocent lives put in jeopardy.

Silent scourge. Time's Nov. 10 cover story on Asia's mental health crisis said a lot about a silent and debilitating scourge that governments pay little attention to. The number of mentally ill persons in Asia is increasing and the reasons are varied—from war trauma to job-related stresses.

Last year, when I wrote a magazine feature on depressives, with concert pianist Leonor Kilayko bravely giving a face and a voice, and the support group being organized, I received hundreds of text messages from people screaming for help. (I have them in a notebook.)

In the West, people now talk about their "Prozac moments." Here we use the word *praning*.

Although Time did not put the Philippines on the mental illness map we figured in the graphs that showed mental health was low in our priority list. The good news is that the suicide list which had Sri Lanka and Japan in the lead did not include the Philippines.

But more worrisome than those who have opted to be dead are the walking dead.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Second thoughts

YOUNG BLOOD

Candy Caluya

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THE OTHER night, my friend Nats and I, exchanged e-mails. She was in New York, while I was in Ilocos Norte. Talk about technological breakthroughs!

But this is not about technology, or the Internet, or cyber-what-have-you. This is about Nats and people like her and people like me. Or more specifically, why she is in New York while I am in Laoag.

Nats was a classmate since kindergarten. She was among the more intelligent ones in our batch. She has always focused on working abroad, when the time came.

I had no dreams of going abroad, except perhaps to see Disneyland and have pictures of me taken beside Mickey Mouse.

After both working for some time in a bank in Makati, we parted ways when she left for the United States. I did not hear from her for a long time. She briefly came for a vacation a few months back with pictures showing how far she had gone in life. She has a nice car, a nice house and a nice job. She is living the American dream. And she can sing the Star-Spangled Banner.

Was I envious? You bet. But I was also genuinely happy for her because she remained simple and down-to-earth, unlike the many *balikbayans* I have met who seemed to have forgotten that once they, too, ate *bagoong* and *tupig*, rode *calesas* and proudly showed off their Beachwalks at one point in their Ilocano life.

More than being envious, I was angry—not with Nats but at the thought that our country was losing bright people like her. Up to now the question bugging me is, why are people working abroad perceived to be more successful than those who choose to stay in the country and have their careers here? For example, during school reunions, overseas Filipino workers are given more recognition than those who are staying in the Philippines although the latter may not be doing badly themselves. I do not know why that is so. I am glad we haven't had a reunion yet, otherwise, I would be introduced as the honor student and editor in chief who became a cook.

I own a business in Laoag. And I undoubtedly love my country. But it seems that people like me will never be regarded as successful because we do not earn dollars. When we give out figures for, say, our salaries, they are not automatically multiplied by 55.

And the pictures that we show? They are all taken in Pagudpud or Tagaytay or Subic, the closest we can get to the US of A.

Sometimes I look at the advertisements in the newspapers and learn that a nurse earns $20 per hour in the United States. I multiply that by 55 and then by 8 to get the daily wage and then I go on to compute her monthly income and her annual income. The figures are so huge and mind-boggling that I am tempted to line up to get a passport faster than I can get a passport photo taken.

At 30, my friend Nats has built her own house. Well, I have a TV, a PC and a cell phone at about her age. Some years ago, she could not even afford to buy two bottles of Coke for both of us. Now, she is earning big-time!

No wonder that when one asks the younger generation today what they are dreaming of, the majority would say that they want to work abroad. Who wants to stay behind?

Those who are brave enough to stay only get sickening news about politics in the country. They say that we are a democratic people. But sometimes, we cannot deny that we have abused our freedom to the point where we no longer respect the rule of law. A simple disagreement causes the opposing parties to march in the streets.

While we all want to be like Nats without leaving the country, we are not willing to work hard to have the kind of life she has. Education is taken for granted and new graduates want to get to the top immediately without starting from the bottom. It is prohibited to smoke in public, they say, but we allow the Taiwanese to do it because they bring in money. We prostitute our natural resources and speak ill of anybody who initiates reforms.

What are we doing? What is happening to us?

We have chosen to remain in the country, but we simply cannot get our act together. Maybe there is nothing worthy of recognition by staying. We want people like Nats to serve our country but what can we offer them? In fact, what is in store for all of us?

We have a false sense of nationhood. If we really cared about our country, self-interest would take the backseat.

Our population has hit 80 million and a popular actor is leading the surveys. Rep. Wimpy Fuentebella was allowed to engage in power-tripping. We have a national language, but we do not speak the same. Rules have been laid down to follow but we interpret them differently. Heaven help us!

Perhaps Nats was right all along. The future is overseas. Now, how much does it cost to go through caregiver training? Do they accept diabetics for overseas employment?

If somebody can give me three good reasons to stay, I will stay. In the meantime, I have to think and start dreaming about Disneyland and the Empire State Building and owning a house and lot and a luxury car and multiply by 55 what these agencies have to offer, not to forget the $500 bonus I will get once I sign the contract—all of which add up to a figure I cannot compute quickly.

Never mind if I have to take care of another country's old people. Never mind that I once won in a "Linggo ng Wika" debate defending our country. Never mind if I imagine myself on the next plane out. Never mind the countless takeoffs and touch-downs.

In fact, no one seems to mind at all.

Candy Caluya, 29, runs a family owned pizza business. She finished her behavioral science degree at the University of Santo Tomas.

THEY SAID

Marriage of enemies

"Indeed, this is the political marriage of erstwhile political enemies Gloria (Macapagal-Arroyo) and Danding (Cojuangco) in its crudest form."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo, asserting that partymates of the President and the business tycoon collaborated to endorse the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Left behind

"It is unfortunate that our country is always in crisis, especially at this point when each country is competing aggressively against one another with globalization. We might be able to weather through, as we always do, but we are likely to be left behind further."

—Francis Chua, executive vice president of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

On HMOs and some doctors

OVER THE PAST 20 years, many Filipino families have been able to enjoy the benefits of affordable health care, which would otherwise have been inaccessible to most of them, had it not been for their membership in a health maintenance organization (HMO) program. Because HMOs are accredited with a network of reputable doctors, hospitals and clinics, their plan members have ready access to them whenever they are beset with conditions requiring medical attention. Except in cases where a plan member incurs expenses at an accredited hospital which exceed his plan's limit, plan members enjoy the convenience of not having to pay a single centavo on admission nor upon discharge, apart from the benefit of being attended to by some of the country's best specialists when their conditions call for it.

During the process of accreditation, HMOs negotiate for discounted rates and a credit line with the doctors and hospitals and clinics that comprise their network of accredited providers. As a trade-off for the discounted rates, the network's doctors and providers are assured of a greater volume of patients from the HMOs' membership.

There are as many doctors who are accredited with HMOs as those who are not. The accredited doctors see and care for both HMO and private patients. Those who are not accredited attend only to private patients. For many doctors who have elected not to be accredited with an HMO, one of the main reasons is the discounted professional fees under an HMO accreditation agreement.

Unfortunately, there are a number of doctors who do not care for HMOs' membership volumes, find the discounted professional fees unacceptable and resent HMOs in general, but are nonetheless accredited with some HMOs. This resentment is oftentimes, consciously or unconsciously, directed at HMO patients, who bear the brunt of the doctor's poor bedside manners, brusqueness and obvious lack of interest in the patient's condition. One such doctor has even devoted much of his weekly columns in a business paper attacking the HMO industry, in general, and occasionally, selected HMO companies in particular, despite his many years of active accreditation with the HMOs.

But why do doctors who obviously disdain HMOs and, consequently, HMO patients, still persist in becoming accredited with HMOs when, by their very behavior and actuations, they hold the HMOs and their plan members in such contempt?

My advice to these doctors is they be true to themselves and get out of the HMO accreditation. They do their noble profession a disservice by agreeing to treat the large volume of HMO patients and receiving professional fees therefrom, while lashing out at the HMOs by treating their patients shabbily. The HMOs don't need them! No patient deserves to be treated poorly, like a nuisance that's there simply to take up the good doctor's precious time. Every patient deserves no less than the highest degree of professionalism from a doctor and, at the very least, to be treated with a modicum of gentleness and genuine care.

—REYNALDO N. BELLO,
34 Acacia St., Forbes Park,
Makati City

US must temper its headlong terrorism campaign

US President George W. Bush bullheadedly announced all over Asia his intention to continue the American war against terrorism. That proves that the United Nations must not only stop playing servant to the most powerful nation on earth but must also stop America from pursuing its hegemony given that this stance only invites an eye-for-an-eye retaliation from the Muslim-Arab world. For its part, America must get rid of the illusion that its economic might gives it the right to bully everyone. It can't continue dominating and expecting everyone to merely acquiesce. Aggressive machismo has no place in a world that is trying to live on the basis of mutual respect and consensus. That, in case we have forgotten, is what the United Nations was established to put in place.

But more important, Bush, as a mature leader, is expected to realize that America's long history of aggressiveness in domination is what led to 9/11. How can he demand that all nations must join America in the war against terrorism when it is quite obvious America must learn to give up its domineering ways? That is the only way America will convince the world it is truly for peace. Is that so hard to understand?

—ERNESTO KELLY MAGTOTO,
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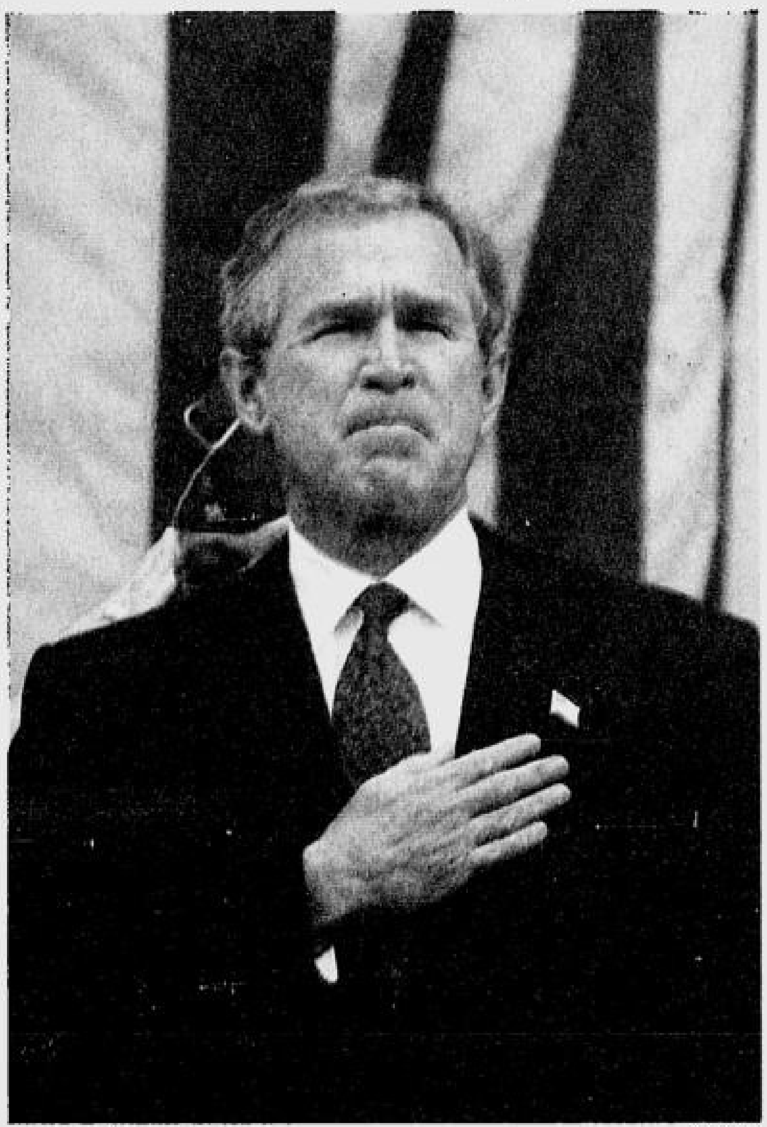

REUTERS

DBP clarifies GSIS pensions

THIS refers to the letter of Godofredo O. Peteza Sr. of Daet, Camarines Norte commenting on the disparity in the release of Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) pensions through the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). He mentions that while Land Bank depositors receive their pensions on the first working day of the month, DBP depositors have to wait for a seven-day clearing period for their pensions to be credited. Peteza's letter was published in the INQUIRER on Oct. 9, 2003.

May we inform Peteza and the general public about the following:

1 . Land Bank is a depository bank of the GSIS. Thus, GSIS pension checks presented to the Land Bank branch where the checks were issued may be deposited and withdrawn on the same day.

2. DBP is not a depository bank of the GSIS. The bank has to comply with the clearing period for checks set by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (per its Circular Letter dated Sept. 11, 2001). DBP is bound by the terms and conditions of this circular letter which mandates the number of clearing days, as follows:

Location of Presenting Bank: local (same location), Location of Drawee: local (same location); Clearing Period: three working days

Location of Presenting Bank: regions; Location of Drawee: Metro Manila; Clearing Period: five working days

Location of Presenting Bank: regions; Location of Drawee: regions; Clearing Period: seven working days

—LEONORA A. FERNANDEZ,
head, corporate affairs,
Development Bank
of the Philippines,
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner
Makati Avenue, Makati City

Universal acceptance of corruption

FIRSTLY, let me say that it is rare to read a political commentary not steeped in spin, much less one that is originally clever and abandons elaborate language (it only serves to describe simple premises—ones which we are all aware of anyway). It's nice to read an article that says something!

Dennis Valdes' article on the speech of President Bush is an insightful and objective look at a political event. (If you haven't, take a closer look at the Oct. 26 issue of the INQUIRER and judge for yourself: "Dubya throws a challenge to Pinoys"). Valdes somehow discerns meaning from subtle incidence, while still acknowledging the overall context of the Bush visit, then summarizes these impressions into an evocative commentary.

Secondly, Valdes touches upon Dubya's reference to "national pride"—a canny inclusion by the President and a suitable diagnosis of what ails the country. I write this because I am a visitor here, and have stayed now three months. Perhaps that makes me unqualified to say, but you may find my impressions about your country and situation interesting.

Overall, I have observed a uniquely charismatic people, in touch with their national identity and still highly in tune with an outside world. I have driven in motorcabs and discovered that my driver can speak three or more languages (I'm supposedly educated and only speak one). Also, I have witnessed natural surroundings so pleasant that until now I only imagined existed in the Garden of Eden. I have never seen more fish or tropical fruits.

It wasn't immediately apparent to me, but after nearly daily admissions (by Filipinos themselves), I became aware of the problem—endemic corruption. Filipinos kept reminding me that corruption was the problem. What amazed me most was the general acceptance with which it was conveyed. I kept wondering how a nation could be acutely aware of, yet so lacking the will to remedy the problem. Also, I wondered how national pride could be nurtured in an atmosphere of universal acceptance of corruption.

Thank you President Bush for reminding us all that the Philippines is "a light for Asia and beyond." Things change, and these encouraging and truthful words should be a resonating call for a national movement for positive changes. Naive? Perhaps, but the Philippines is populated with hearty, innovative people. You have a lively constitutional democracy, and you have the support of the world's most powerful nation. Now all you need is the will.

—GLEN STURDEE,
England, gsturdee@hotmail.com

Towing questions

TWO months ago, Sept. 9 to be exact, my son Christopher drove to the Manila Doctors Hospital in Ermita, Manila to undergo a minor surgical operation. No big deal really, according to his surgeon Dr. Roman Naval.

Finding the hospital's designated parking area along United Nations Avenue fully occupied with different vehicles, he opted to park his van along a portion of UN Avenue in front of Casino Filipino, right between two parked vehicles.

After his operation, which lasted for about one hour (from 2 to 3 p.m.), he walked out of the hospital to where he parked his van and was shocked to find that it was no longer there. On the spot where he parked his van he found instead a printed notice weighed down by a piece of stone, directing him to an impounding office near Precinct 8 of the Manila Police Department and to pay a fine of P1,200 in order to retrieve the impounded van. An official receipt was issued by Kathy and Kyle Towing Service, dated on the same day and initialed by an unverifiable signatory.

The incident ended there but a few questions beg to be asked:

1. Is the towing company authorized by the city or national government?

2. Why does the concerned city/government agency allow parking along UN Avenue in front of Manila Doctors Hospital but not at the adjoining area in front of Casino Filipino?

3. Why were the two private vehicles parked in front of the Casino Filipino along the same thoroughfare (more or less at the same time) not towed away for illegal parking?

4. What specific ordinance, if any, govern such impounding activity and how is the amount of fine determined?

5. And what if the official (?) notice left by the towing crew carelessly on the roadside where the van was parked got blown by the wind?

6. How will the owner know if it was legally towed or stolen?

7. Last, but not least, should not certain mitigating circumstances be considered before the imposition of this arbitrary fine?

—PERCIVAL B. PADUA,
20 Union St., San Jose,
Navotas, Metro Manila

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Unfair portayal of HB 4110

I HAVE long been a reader of the INQUIRER and I have enjoyed the articles you have printed over the years.

Last Oct. 11, though, my attention was caught by your editorial cartoonist's depiction of House Bill 4110 otherwise known as the Reproductive Health Care Bill.

I would like to call the attention of Jess Abrera because I think it is quite unfair to portray the proposed measure that way.

The Philippines' population growth rate for 2002 was 2.36 percent as reported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in its State of World Population Report for 2003. There were 1.8 million babies born in the country in 2002, which roughly translates to 4.2 babies born every minute according to the Commission on Population.

The UNFPA also said that the Philippines is the 12th most populous country in the world today with an estimated population of 82 million. The UNFPA also projected that this will reach 127 million by the year 2050.

This means that there is an urgent need for us to immediately address the growing gap between reproductive health and responsible parenthood.

We support the proposed Reproductive Health Care Act because it promotes responsible parenthood and the use of more effective methods of family planning.

It is the responsibility of parents to decide the number of children they can reasonably care for. Responsible parents have the right to decide which family planning method suits them.

Critics of House Bill 4110 equate its eventual passage with the proliferation of contraceptives and the legalization of abortion. I respect their opinion but I also think they are misleading the public by painting an incorrect picture of the Philippine population problem.

—BISHOP FRED M. MAGBANUA,
chair, Council of Christian
Bishops of the Philippines,
9453 Retiro St.,
Guadalupe Nuevo,
Makati City

(Rainy) thoughts on domestic tourism

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I'M sitting here in Legazpi, rather glumly and desperately, staring out of my hotel window looking for Mayon volcano. It is raining dogs and cats and croaking frogs, and one of the hotel staff has just told me the one and only flight coming in from Manila has been cancelled, which means I'm going to miss some important meetings.

How was the decision made to cancel a flight? She said that Mayon has turned invisible, which means planes can't come in and land safely. Apparently, Legazpi's airport just isn't equipped to handle flights in this kind of rough weather.

I'm not the only one feeling down. Every time it rains this way and flights are cancelled, residents complain about the politicians' long-standing promises to work on the airport. Each cancelled flight means lost revenues for businesses, especially from tourism.

Much has been said about domestic tourism, urging Filipinos to see the Philippines first. Many of us are taking this challenge quite seriously, but the temptation to go for foreign destinations is strong, not so much because of a colonial mentality than because of issues of costs and efficiency.

There are package tours available—airfare and three nights hotel stays—for as low as about US$100 to Hong Kong and $200 to Bangkok. Compare that to what it would cost to come to Legazpi—I'm here on official business, on a "super promo savings fare" which still comes out to P5,200. Add on the costs of the hotel and you break the $100 mark.

Now if you flew in to Legazpi for Mayon, and get stranded because of the rains, as I am, that's about it. No Mayon, and really, not much else to do. There are fine beaches in neighboring towns and in Sorsogon but do you want to swim in this weather?

Legazpi's well connected to Manila and to the world, through Internet and cellphones and cable television (everything from, groan, Kris Aquino's "Ready KNB?" to Discovery channel). But there's irony here, being connected to the world, but not being able to assure flights coming in. Until we can get our travel infrastructure in place, we won't be able to get that critical mass going for tourism. Flexible schedules are fine when you're off to some remote area of the Cordillera but you can't offer three-day package tours for Legazpi and say the length of stay is subject to change, depending on the weather.

I was brought to Legazpi by Health Action Information Network (HAIN), an NGO that also wants to promote domestic tourism. The workshop could have been held in Manila but the decision to have the workshop in Legazpi is part of a policy of helping to stimulate economies outside the capital. With some 25 participants taking a three-week course, you can imagine the money being pumped in from this one workshop.

But the people at HAIN are realizing this effort to support cities outside Manila is so fraught with risks. Getting the seminar participants from different parts of the Philippines into Legazpi has been a major endeavor. Even more tense has been getting the speakers in from Manila. Originally, the lecturer for today was a professor from UP Diliman but she called in the other day having to withdraw because of health problems. This was a blessing in disguise because one of HAIN's staff, already here in Legazpi, then began to prepare to do the lecture. If HAIN had gone on with the original speaker, it would be in hot water right now because she would not have been able to fly in anyway.

Let me move away now from the point about poor infrastructure for tourism. On a positive note, I have to say the number of local hotels has increased even in smaller cities like Legazpi, offering quite decent accommodations. I'm hoping more of these hotels follow the lead of Jennifer's Garden Hotel in Legazpi, where I'm writing this column right now, or Casa Linda in Puerto Princesa. Moving away from high-rise concrete block buildings, these are more of resorts surrounded by greenery and all the rooms offering views of gardens. Jennifer's doesn't just offer greenery but, on a clear day at least, a majestic view of Mayon volcano.

Another thought about domestic tourism. A few months back I was in Puerto Princesa and signed up for a guided tour to the underground river. The river itself was breathtaking, but the trip there was a disappointment, with a tourist guide who would announce, every 10 minutes or so, that we were in "Barangay X" or "Barangay Y," without any information on the place's history, or places to see.

The saving grace was a mangrove tour where the guide was one of the residents from a neighboring community, very knowledgeable about the ecology of the area. Something similar, I feel, could be developed in Albay. When I visited the Cagsawa ruins here, I was suddenly ambushed by a group of pre-teen boys and girls, offering photographs of Mayon's eruptions. I usually dislike these hordes of vendors but there was a twist to all this as the kids began to recite facts about Mayon and Cagsawa. My unofficial guide, a first year high school student, pointed to a mango tree and said that was where the main altar of the Cagsawa church used to be. Further off she pointed out the walls of a convent. One of the boys chimed in about how many nuns and friars were caught in that convent during the huge eruption that destroyed Cagsawa.

Now why can't we tap these high school students or local residents to become guides or docents, trained to handle questions about the local area? I thought it'd be better having these high school kids doing that rather than selling photographs. I had in fact bought some of the pictures during a visit four or five years ago and wouldn't be surprised if the one who sold me the pictures was still doing the same thing now.

Domestic tourism needs to involve local communities and residents, even as the national and provincial governments do their share in terms of infrastructure support. I have no doubts Filipinos want to discover the Philippines, but we need more assurance that there will be knowledgeable tour guides, and that we can get back home safely, and on time.

So, stay put and sing rain, rain go away...

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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Baguio church workers, studes protest casino

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"This will signal the loosening of the moral fiber of the society. Our family will deteriorate. Worse of all, some students might spend their allowances in the casino," Rosemary Jumilda, a student of the Saint Louis Girls High School, said.

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The group represents the 128 barangay captains of the city, called for the amendment of Resolution 362. *Frank Cimatu, Desiree Caluza, Vincent Cabreza and Rod Bansag, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

SLOW GRIND OF JUSTICE

Activists' slay a dying case, kin say

CALAMBA, Laguna—The families and friends of the two activists murdered last April in Oriental Mindoro have expressed dismay over the slow grind of justice for the two murder victims.

"We have waited for a long time and sacrificed a lot going back and forth from the province to Manila to attend the sessions, but more than four times we spent only a few minutes at the Department of Justice," said Lito Mercado, brother of Eden Marcellana, who was found dead with Eddie Gumanoy on April 22 in Bansud town.

Marcellana, secretary general of the rights group Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, and Gumanoy, chair of Katipunan ng Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan, led a group that investigated reports of human rights abuses in Naujan town.

Mercado said the absence of the murder suspect has delayed the preliminary hearing that started at the Department of Justice on Sept. 6.

M/Sgt. Donald Caigas, the main suspect, did not appear during the first few sessions and his party requested several times for the extension of submission of his counter-affidavit, Mercado said.

The preliminary investigation of the case last Nov. 4 was supposed to be the last of the series but two more hearings, on Monday and today, were set because the respondent submitted three more affidavits.

Caigas who belongs to the Army's 204th Infantry Brigade, claimed that he was in his home in Navotas, Metro Manila from April 9 until the latter part of the month.

But four complainants-witnesses positively identified him as one of the armed men who abducted Marcellana, Gumanoy and three of their companions.

On the seventh hearing last Tuesday, presiding prosecutor Perfecto Lawrence Chua-Cheng questioned the late submission of documents that should have been submitted earlier but the respondent's lawyer said the documents were in the "annex" of the counter-affidavit they submitted last Oct. 23 but they overlooked it at that time.

Mercado, who heads the Justice for Eden and Eddie, Justice for All Movement, said this is another ploy to prolong the preliminary investigation.

"The various tactics of the respondent's party to delay and lengthen the preliminary investigation should not be allowed and the speedy investigation should be pushed by the DOJ. It is high time that the perpetrators of the crime be punished and justice be given to the families of Marcellana and Gumanoy," said Irein Cuasay, spokesperson of Karapatan-ST.

Last Oct. 20, representatives of Karapatan presented the murder case during the NGO Consultations-Briefing for the 79th meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland. *Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PORTRAIT OF HISTORY TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A poster of Joseph Estrada in one of his best poses as President is inspected by a passersby at a sidewalk stall selling posters along Session Road in Baguio City.

ROUNDUP

Lawyers help girl

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Pampanga on Tuesday began providing legal assistance to a 15-year-old girl allegedly raped by a policeman inside a police station last May. The IBP chapter intervened after the office of the Deputy Ombudsman for the Military downgraded the case to qualified seduction, possibly sparing PO2 Alfredo Nucup Jr. of the harsher punishment of lifetime imprisonment or death penalty. Ombudsman Prosecutor Alan Cañares, in a recommendation, upheld the resolution of Second Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Otto Macabuhos that what occurred between the girl and Nucup was "consensual" sex. The girl's parents wanted the case reviewed by a higher court. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

'Steam engine' in N. Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—Northern Luzon must position itself as the "economic steam engine" of the country in view of the economic development in North Asia, particularly China, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said here. Marcos, who was guest during the recent North Luzon Area Business Conference here, said the country will "miss the boat if we don't aggressively and mindfully stake the claim in the Asian market as all economists in the region look up to China as the motor for renewal and development." Aside from its closeness to North Asia, Northern Luzon has good infrastructure and roads and human resources, Marcos said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

New bridge in La Union

LOCAL and national officials viewed a newly constructed world-class bridge in the remote town of Sto. Tomas, La Union as a "durable link to the future that would bring in progress for the municipality and adjacent areas," said a news release. Built through a government-private sector partnership, the 20-meter-long Casilagan Bridge was inaugurated recently in austere ceremonies attended by municipal and provincial officials, with Interior Undersecretary Alipio Hernandez as guest of honor. The Casilagan span was the second to be completed by the Austrian-based Waagner Biro (Philippines) under the Philippine government's Bridge Construction Acceleration Program.

P1.7-M robbery

AGLIPAY, Quirino—Officials of Dinapigue, Isabela, lost some P1.7 million in payroll money when they were robbed by five armed men along a mountain highway near the Quirino-Aurora border in Nagtipunan town on Wednesday. Supt. Manuel de los Reyes, Quirino police director, said Judy Palitayan, municipal treasurer of Dinapigue town, was held up as she and four others, including her husband, Councilor Jonas Palitayan, were on their way home. Palitayan and her group were on their way to Dinapigue from Ilagan, where they withdrew money for the salaries of town officials and employees. De los Reyes said the victims' Toyota pickup was blocked by a log that the robbers placed on a road in Barangay Disimungal. At gunpoint, five suspects armed with M-16 and M-14 rifles, ordered the victims to alight from the vehicle and took the money. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GenSan to tap kids in tax bid

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The city treasurer's office here plans to tap schoolchildren in an effort to make the city government's tax collection even more efficient.

City Treasurer Mar Dos Pueblos cited the important role of schoolchildren particularly in convincing their parents to pay their taxes promptly and correctly.

"I believe students could help a lot in our tax collection efficiency drive. We plan to deputize the schoolchildren to act as partners of the city government in the tax collection. This is still being worked out but we hope to launch this project the soonest (sic) time possible," he said.

Dos Pueblos added that employees under the city treasurer's office would be conducting seminars among schoolchildren to encourage and motivate them to help the city government improve its tax collection effort.

While at home, Dos Pueblos said, schoolchildren could ask or remind their parents to pay their taxes to the government.

"Children could influence their parents. It would be a great help to the city if they could convince their parents to pay their obligations to the government," he said.

Due to lack of manpower, the city treasurer's office could not reach out to all the people to tell them to pay their taxes to the government. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Chavit brod declares support for FPJ

VIGAN CITY—Ilocos Sur Vice Gov. Jeremias Singson, younger brother of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, has declared his support for actor Fernando Poe Jr. should the actor decide to run for president in 2004.

"We are friends from way back and I will support his candidacy if he decides to run," the younger Singson said. His brother, Chavit, however, is a known supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Jeremias, a member of the administration Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, confirmed reports that Poe was seriously considering to offer himself as one of the possible candidates of the opposition.

The younger Singson said he will resign from Lakas should Poe run. Lakas is fielding Ms Macapagal as its presidential candidate in 2004.

Jeremias claimed that Poe has a "winning chance" against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I think his (Poe) bigger problem is not before the elections, but after the elections," he said.

He said his friendship with Poe started in the 1960s when the actor served as consultant in the Singsons' movie production outfit North Star Productions.

Jeremias said Poe also stood as one of the principal sponsors during the wedding of his eldest son.

Talk has it that it would be a Poe-Legarda tandem for the 2004 elections.

Business groups expressed apprehension over a candidacy of Poe, saying the country should not be run by another actor because of the country's experience with Joseph Estrada. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Militant youth, 2 others missing in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Another member of the militant group Anakbayan and two others were reported missing after they were allegedly abducted last week in front of the Victoria Plaza Department Store in J.P. Laurel Avenue.

Anakbayan member Rendon Amal, 21, and neighbors Elias Telo, 23, Ramonito Delante, 21, were allegedly snatched by armed men on board a white L-300 van at around 11 a.m. on Nov. 4.

The victims' alleged abduction came even as authorities have yet to solve the killing of three Anakbayan members and a motorcycle driver abducted in Maco, Compostela Valley on Sept. 19.

Ariel Casilao, secretary general of the rights group Karapatan, said the victims' relatives sought their help only on Monday.

Baby Delante, Ramonito's mother, said the three were with her other son, Anecito, prior to the incident. She said the three victims and Anecito were riding a passenger jeepney when they noticed a white L-300 van following them.

They identified one of those riding the van as Julius Cadungog alias Uliong, who is reportedly a civilian asset of the Heinous Crime and Investigation Section (HCIS) of the Davao City Police Office (DCPO).

Baby said Anecito allegedly suggested to the group that they go home as the van continued to trail them. But the three ignored Anecito's suggestion and stayed at the Victoria Plaza.

The three failed to return home since then. HCIS chief Senior Insp. Fulgencio Pavo said his office had nothing to do with the incident.

He said Cadungog had been convicted for illegal drugs and was under probation. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Thousands fail to beat list-up deadline

CEBU CITY—At least 5,000 prospective voters, all "deadline beaters," failed to register in at least five cities and two towns of Cebu as registration of voters ended at 8 p.m. Sunday.

Commission on Elections officials in Cebu have decided to list down the names of those who were already at the registration areas at closing time and were allowed to register on Monday until tomorrow.

In Cebu City alone, about 2,400 people could no longer be accommodated at the registration areas in both the south and north districts, according to Comelec regional legal officer Marshall Rubia.

Cebu City even put satellite registration centers in the Barangays of Talamban and Lahug in the north district and in Guadalupe and Pardo in the south district.

But until 8 p.m. of Sunday, at least 300 people were not able to register in each satellite centers. Around 600 people were also listed in the Cebu City North Comelec office and the same number in the south district office.

Rubia said several people also failed to register in the cities of Mandaue, Toledo, Danao, Talisay, and towns of Minglanilla and Consolacion.

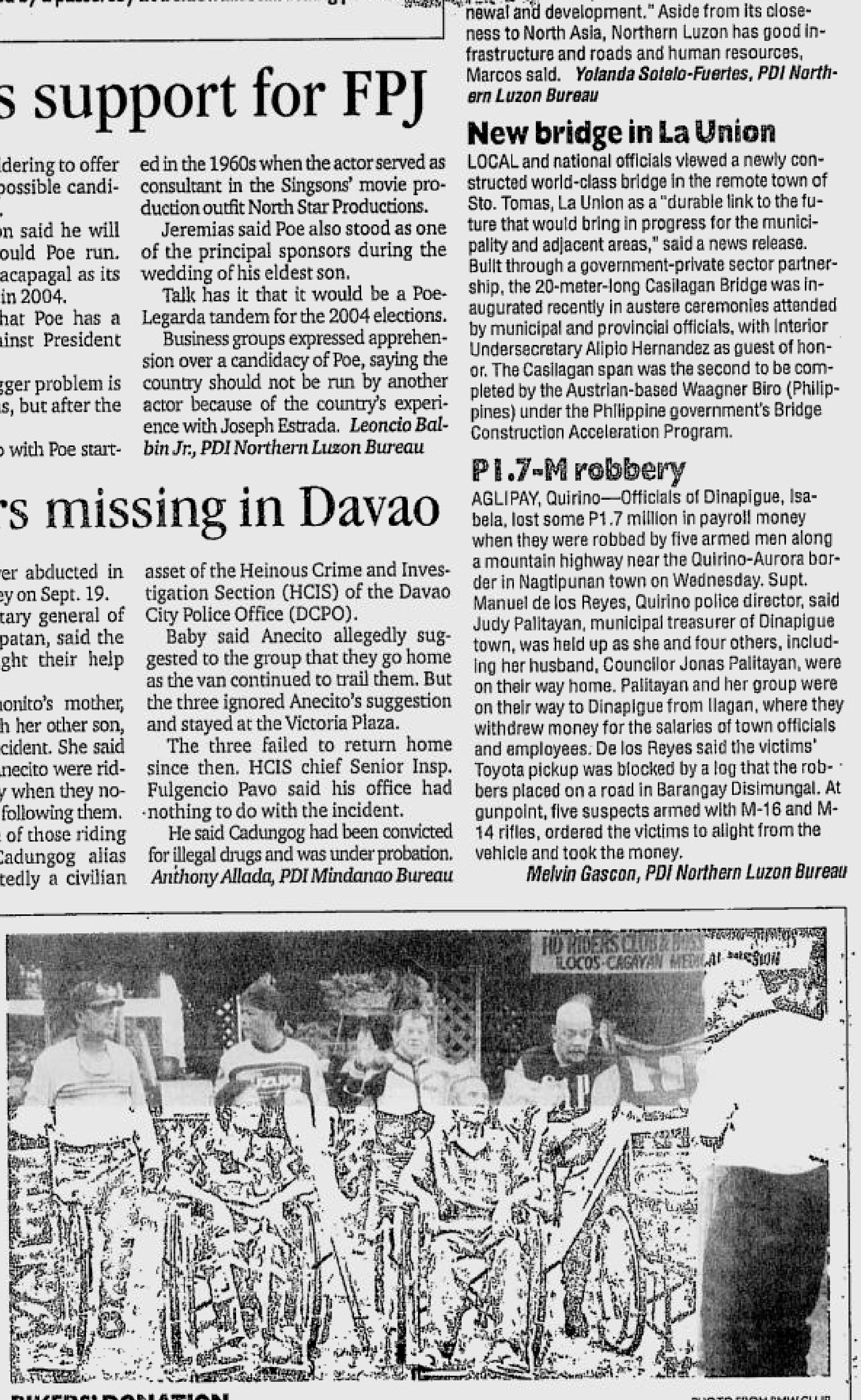
Rubia estimated an average of 500 people lining up in each of these areas.

Rubia said when he inspected the Talisay City Comelec office at 10 p.m. on Sunday, there were so many unregistered voters who were lining up. That was the reason he instructed the officials there to just close the office after taking the names of those who were in the premises.

But Comelec officials in Minglanilla town decided to continue the registration until 3 a.m. of Monday.

Rubia said the attitude of Filipinos of coming in at the last minute to beat the deadline was one of the factors why a number of prospective voters could not be accommodated on Sunday.

Even until yesterday, Cebu City north district Comelec officer Semaco Labata said several people still visited the office to register. He said they refused them because they were not among those in the list. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*



BIKERS' DONATION PHOTO FROM BMW CLUB

The BMW Motorcycle Club of the Phils. and Harley Davidson Riders, two groups of motorcycle enthusiasts, donate wheelchairs to senior citizens and disabled residents of Sanchez Mira town in Cagayan province. The mercy mission was supervised by Mayor Buddy Galano.

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On the seventh hearing last Tuesday, presiding prosecutor Perfecto Lawrence Chua-Cheng questioned the late submission of documents that should have been submitted earlier but the respondent's lawyer said the documents were in the "annex" of the counter-affidavit they submitted last Oct. 23 but they overlooked it at that time.

Mercado, who heads the Justice for Eden and Eddie, Justice for All Movement, said this is another ploy to prolong the preliminary investigation.

"The various tactics of the respondent's party to delay and lengthen the preliminary investigation should not be allowed and the speedy investigation should be pushed by the DOJ. It is high time that the perpetrators of the crime be punished and justice be given to the families of Marcellana and Gumanoy," said Irein Cuasay, spokesperson of Karapatan-ST.

Last Oct. 20, representatives of Karapatan presented the murder case during the NGO Consultations-Briefing for the 79th meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland. *Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

PORTRAIT OF HISTORY

A poster of Joseph Estrada in one of his best poses as President is inspected by a passersby at a sidewalk stall selling posters along Session Road in Baguio City.

ROUNDUP

Lawyers help girl

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Pampanga on Tuesday began providing legal assistance to a 15-year-old girl allegedly raped by a policeman inside a police station last May. The IBP chapter intervened after the office of the Deputy Ombudsman for the Military downgraded the case to qualified seduction, possibly sparing PO2 Alfredo Nucup Jr. of the harsher punishment of lifetime imprisonment or death penalty. Ombudsman Prosecutor Alan Cañares, in a recommendation, upheld the resolution of Second Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Otto Macabuhos that what occurred between the girl and Nucup was "consensual" sex. The girl's parents wanted the case reviewed by a higher court. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

'Steam engine' in N. Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—Northern Luzon must position itself as the "economic steam engine" of the country in view of the economic development in North Asia, particularly China, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said here. Marcos, who was guest during the recent North Luzon Area Business Conference here, said the country will "miss the boat if we don't aggressively and mindfully stake the claim in the Asian market as all economists in the region look up to China as the motor for renewal and development." Aside from its closeness to North Asia, Northern Luzon has good infrastructure and roads and human resources, Marcos said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

New bridge in La Union

LOCAL and national officials viewed a newly constructed world-class bridge in the remote town of Sto. Tomas, La Union as a "durable link to the future that would bring in progress for the municipality and adjacent areas," said a news release. Built through a government-private sector partnership, the 20-meter-long Casilagan Bridge was inaugurated recently in austere ceremonies attended by municipal and provincial officials, with Interior Undersecretary Alipio Hernandez as guest of honor. The Casilagan span was the second to be completed by the Austrian-based Waagner Biro (Philippines) under the Philippine government's Bridge Construction Acceleration Program.

P1.7-M robbery

AGLIPAY, Quirino—Officials of Dinapigue, Isabela, lost some P1.7 million in payroll money when they were robbed by five armed men along a mountain highway near the Quirino-Aurora border in Nagtipunan town on Wednesday. Supt. Manuel de los Reyes, Quirino police director, said Judy Palitayan, municipal treasurer of Dinapigue town, was held up as she and four others, including her husband, Councilor Jonas Palitayan, were on their way home. Palitayan and her group were on their way to Dinapigue from Ilagan, where they withdrew money for the salaries of town officials and employees. De los Reyes said the victims' Toyota pickup was blocked by a log that the robbers placed on a road in Barangay Disimungal. At gunpoint, five suspects armed with M-16 and M-14 rifles, ordered the victims to alight from the vehicle and took the money. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GenSan to tap kids in tax bid

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The city treasurer's office here plans to tap schoolchildren in an effort to make the city government's tax collection even more efficient.

City Treasurer Mar Dos Pueblos cited the important role of schoolchildren particularly in convincing their parents to pay their taxes promptly and correctly.

"I believe students could help a lot in our tax collection efficiency drive. We plan to deputize the schoolchildren to act as partners of the city government in the tax collection. This is still being worked out but we hope to launch this project the soonest (sic) time possible," he said.

Dos Pueblos added that employees under the city treasurer's office would be conducting seminars among schoolchildren to encourage and motivate them to help the city government improve its tax collection effort.

While at home, Dos Pueblos said, schoolchildren could ask or remind their parents to pay their taxes to the government.

"Children could influence their parents. It would be a great help to the city if they could convince their parents to pay their obligations to the government," he said.

Due to lack of manpower, the city treasurer's office could not reach out to all the people to tell them to pay their taxes to the government. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Chavit brod declares support for FPJ

VIGAN CITY—Ilocos Sur Vice Gov. Jeremias Singson, younger brother of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, has declared his support for actor Fernando Poe Jr. should the actor decide to run for president in 2004.

"We are friends from way back and I will support his candidacy if he decides to run," the younger Singson said. His brother, Chavit, however, is a known supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Jeremias, a member of the administration Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, confirmed reports that Poe was seriously considering to offer himself as one of the possible candidates of the opposition.

The younger Singson said he will resign from Lakas should Poe run. Lakas is fielding Ms Macapagal as its presidential candidate in 2004.

Jeremias claimed that Poe has a "winning chance" against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I think his (Poe) bigger problem is not before the elections, but after the elections," he said.

He said his friendship with Poe started in the 1960s when the actor served as consultant in the Singsons' movie production outfit North Star Productions.

Jeremias said Poe also stood as one of the principal sponsors during the wedding of his eldest son.

Talk has it that it would be a Poe-Legarda tandem for the 2004 elections.

Business groups expressed apprehension over a candidacy of Poe, saying the country should not be run by another actor because of the country's experience with Joseph Estrada. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Militant youth, 2 others missing in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Another member of the militant group Anakbayan and two others were reported missing after they were allegedly abducted last week in front of the Victoria Plaza Department Store in J.P. Laurel Avenue.

Anakbayan member Rendon Amal, 21, and neighbors Elias Telo, 23, Ramonito Delante, 21, were allegedly snatched by armed men on board a white L-300 van at around 11 a.m. on Nov. 4.

The victims' alleged abduction came even as authorities have yet to solve the killing of three Anakbayan members and a motorcycle driver abducted in Maco, Compostela Valley on Sept. 19.

Ariel Casilao, secretary general of the rights group Karapatan, said the victims' relatives sought their help only on Monday.

Baby Delante, Ramonito's mother, said the three were with her other son, Anecito, prior to the incident. She said the three victims and Anecito were riding a passenger jeepney when they noticed a white L-300 van following them.

They identified one of those riding the van as Julius Cadungog alias Uliong, who is reportedly a civilian asset of the Heinous Crime and Investigation Section (HCIS) of the Davao City Police Office (DCPO).

Baby said Anecito allegedly suggested to the group that they go home as the van continued to trail them. But the three ignored Anecito's suggestion and stayed at the Victoria Plaza.

The three failed to return home since then. HCIS chief Senior Insp. Fulgencio Pavo said his office had nothing to do with the incident.

He said Cadungog had been convicted for illegal drugs and was under probation. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Thousands fail to beat list-up deadline

CEBU CITY—At least 5,000 prospective voters, all "deadline beaters," failed to register in at least five cities and two towns of Cebu as registration of voters ended at 8 p.m. Sunday.

Commission on Elections officials in Cebu have decided to list down the names of those who were already at the registration areas at closing time and were allowed to register on Monday until tomorrow.

In Cebu City alone, about 2,400 people could no longer be accommodated at the registration areas in both the south and north districts, according to Comelec regional legal officer Marshall Rubia.

Cebu City even put satellite registration centers in the Barangays of Talamban and Lahug in the north district and in Guadalupe and Pardo in the south district.

But until 8 p.m. of Sunday, at least 300 people were not able to register in each satellite centers. Around 600 people were also listed in the Cebu City North Comelec office and the same number in the south district office.

Rubia said several people also failed to register in the cities of Mandaue, Toledo, Danao, Talisay, and towns of Minglanilla and Consolacion.

Rubia estimated an average of 500 people lining up in each of these areas.

Rubia said when he inspected the Talisay City Comelec office at 10 p.m. on Sunday, there were so many unregistered voters who were lining up. That was the reason he instructed the officials there to just close the office after taking the names of those who were in the premises.

But Comelec officials in Minglanilla town decided to continue the registration until 3 a.m. of Monday.

Rubia said the attitude of Filipinos of coming in at the last minute to beat the deadline was one of the factors why a number of prospective voters could not be accommodated on Sunday.

Even until yesterday, Cebu City north district Comelec officer Semaco Labata said several people still visited the office to register. He said they refused them because they were not among those in the list. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

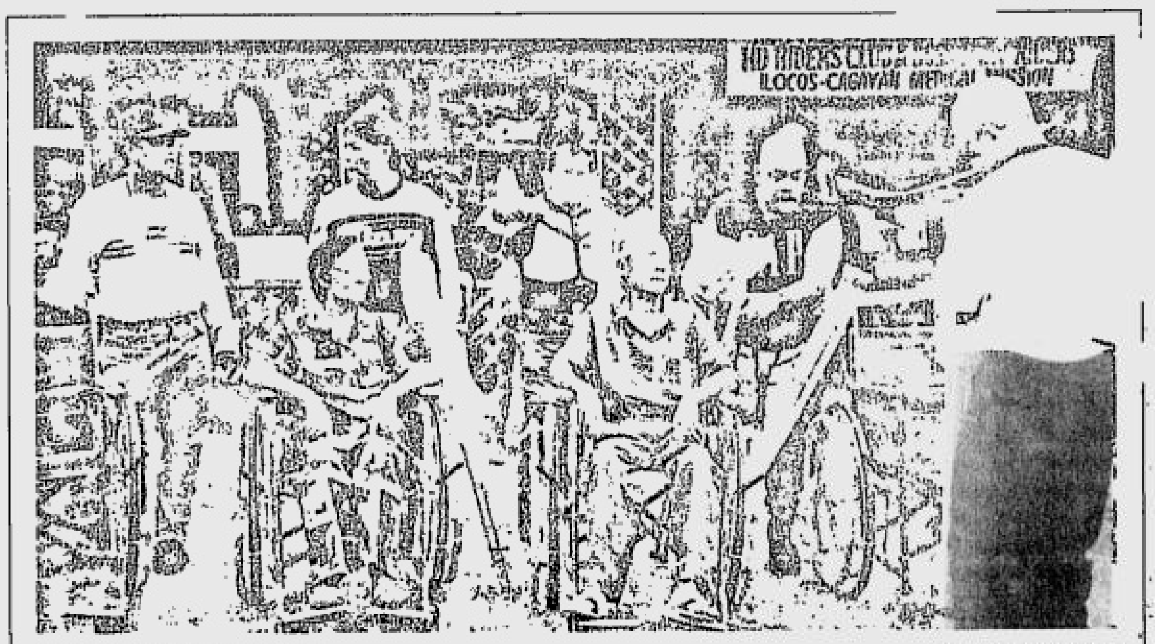

PHOTO FROM BMW CLUB

BIKERS' DONATION

The BMW Motorcycle Club of the Phils. and Harley Davidson Riders, two groups of motorcycle enthusiasts, donate wheelchairs to senior citizens and disabled residents of Sanchez Mira town in Cagayan province. The mercy mission was supervised by Mayor Buddy Galano.

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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GUINOBATAN'S soft-shelled turtle: Endangered

A race to save the soft-shelled turtles

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Guinobatan, Albay

THOUSANDS of soft-shelled turtles in Guinobatan, Albay, may soon disappear if villagers do not stop catching them for food.

Since their discovery in the San Francisco River in Barangay Minto in 1997, the turtles, which belong to the family of Chinese soft-shelled turtles (*Pelodiscus sinensis*), have been cooked and served as appetizers during drinking sprees, according to the Protected Area, Wildlife and Coastal Zone Management Services office in Bicol.

Weighing 15 to 20 kilos each, the creatures are sold for P500 apiece.

The hunt for the marine species is getting out of control and has alarmed concerned residents, including Guinobatan's tourism officer Arturo Osia. They fear that the turtles would be headed for extinction if the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and local officials did nothing.

Features

Minto residents have mistaken the species for the "snake-necked turtles" because of their two striking features—the black lines or seams on its underside plates and long neck. Some of those caught have an oval carapace that is relatively flat and smooth, according to information from the website eNaturalHealthCenter.com.

The soft-shelled turtle has a flat, smooth, soft and round shell with a texture similar to a pancake. Its back is olive, dark green or gray and its underside, white or pink. It has webbed feet, a long neck, and elongated snout with nostrils at the tip.

It moves swiftly and becomes aggressive, biting viciously when threatened.

Found in inland water bodies, such as dams, swamps, ponds and rivers that have soft sand or muddy bottoms where they often lie buried, the soft-shelled turtles occasionally emerge to bask in the sun.

Osia said the species could be found mostly in the San Francisco River that stretches up to Bato, Camarines Sur.

Food

The turtles are valued not only for food but also for medicinal purposes. One hunter said some of his friends and colleagues kill and eat the soft-shelled turtles because they believe that the creatures are aphrodisiacs.

Hunting is easy at night, since the turtle usually comes out of the river by sunset, the hunter said. But eating the turtle is a different story.

LEONORA Orbiata, a resident of Barangay Minto in Guinobatan, Albay, shows her "pet" soft-shelled turtle. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

"Honestly, it's so soapy and not a good food to eat. I feel sorry every time we catch it in the nearby river," he confessed.

The turtle meat is used to treat fever, convulsions, chronic malaria, dysentery, uterine bleeding, weakness during convalescence, abnormal "absence of menses" and other ailments.

Some town residents are concerned with the way the hunters treat the turtles, prompting them to pressure the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, particularly the PAWS.

"Though it's not part of my job [as tourism officer] to monitor this, I have been coordinating, since I learned about it, with barangay officials, through their chair Rudel Ocmer, to inform their constituents and tell them to stop selling and hunting the soft-shelled turtles," Osia said.

"Maybe they're not aware of this kind of activity but some who visited the place witnessed the brutal butchery," he said.

Feeds

Osia noted that one family in Camalig owned soft-shell turtles for breeding, but floods that had hit the town swept the creatures away. "Most likely, they found a favorable habitat in Barangay Minto where they have reproduced vigorously," he said.

The turtle, according to the villagers, feeds on insects, worms, tadpoles, frogs, small fish and crustaceans.

"But it's so frightening that when it holds its neck sideways, it gets close enough, and when it straightens out and extends its neck, it can capture its prey by striking like a snake," one resident said.

Its powerful front claws break larger prey.

Leonora Orpiada, 56, who was given a turtle by a hunter almost a year ago, said her family feeds it with "*kangkong*" (swamp cabbage) or leftover food.

"We consider it a pet. Many people come here to see the turtle," she said.

She added that the female soft-shelled turtle lays eight to 24 eggs in three weeks.

The turtles' shells grow an average of 28 cm long. So far, the largest soft-shelled turtle caught is as big as a large plate and is now under the care of one of the barangay councilors.

Soft-shelled turtles bite hard, which, according to Orpiada, can even cut a finger off because of its very sharp teeth and long stretchable neck.

The residents said the turtles also love to eat *tilapia* caught from the river, thus posing a threat to fish species in it.

Sanction

The PAWCZMS office, through its Wildlife Section Group headed by Myrna Bailon, claimed that it had investigated the turtle-hunting activities and issued a memorandum banning the killing, hunting and selling of the turtles.

Even restaurants have been informed about the memorandum, she said.

Under the Wildlife Act, anyone caught killing (or even selling) certain species that can be considered endangered or at least one-of-a-kind, will be fined and jailed.

Bailon said that since the soft-shelled turtle is endangered, anyone caught killing and selling it will be imprisoned for a year and one day up to two years, with a fine of P20,000 up to P200,000.

Barangay chair Rudel Ocmer said the municipal tourism office had instructed him and the other council officers to punish those catching, selling and killing the turtles. The officials and residents, however, denied that the hunting and selling of the turtles were rampant in their village.

"Our barangay plans to construct temporary dwellings for the soft-shelled turtles, but we don't have enough funds for that. Mr. Osia told us that he's going to coordinate with the DENR to supervise and assist us in pursuing this," Ocmer said.

The municipal tourism office plans to construct a secluded sanctuary for the turtles in Minto.

"This sanctuary can be a safe house for these extraordinary turtles and most likely can promote tourism once they have been taken care of extensively," Osia said.

Steam-rich town revives park for eco-tourim

By Ronnie Lorejo
Tiwi, Albay

THE UNEXPECTED demise of the Naglagbong Park (Nag Park) in Tiwi, Albay sometime in the 1980s brought sadness to most people in the city and the province, who believed they had seen the last of their town's tourist landmarks.

With steam as its "lifeblood," the park was then home to typical signs of geothermal power, such as hot springs, vents, boiling mud pools and silica sinter mounds. Visitors would even boil eggs on top a steaming hole.

A sudden dip in fluid pressure hastened the boiling of the mud that led to a hydrothermal eruption in the Naglagbong aqua pool in July 1980. Steam and boiling water were violently discharged from the normally placid springs.

The vigorous venting of steam and boiling water lifted capping formations that were vital in keeping the lid on the boiling fluid.

Opportunity

Instead of being discouraged, local officials, government agencies and private entities collaborated to nurture back to life the park that had always been part of the geothermal-rich town's natural resources.

To maintain the place as a tourist destination, the National Power Corp. (Napocor), which owns the geothermal project and operates the power plant, and Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI), which operates the steam field, began rehabilitation work.

In collaboration with the local government, Napocor and PGI harnessed what was left of the extant natural environment and constructed additional facilities in the park.

Today, Napocor and PGI will turn over the revitalized landmark to Tiwi, a once-sleepy town at the southeastern tip of the province.

Tribute

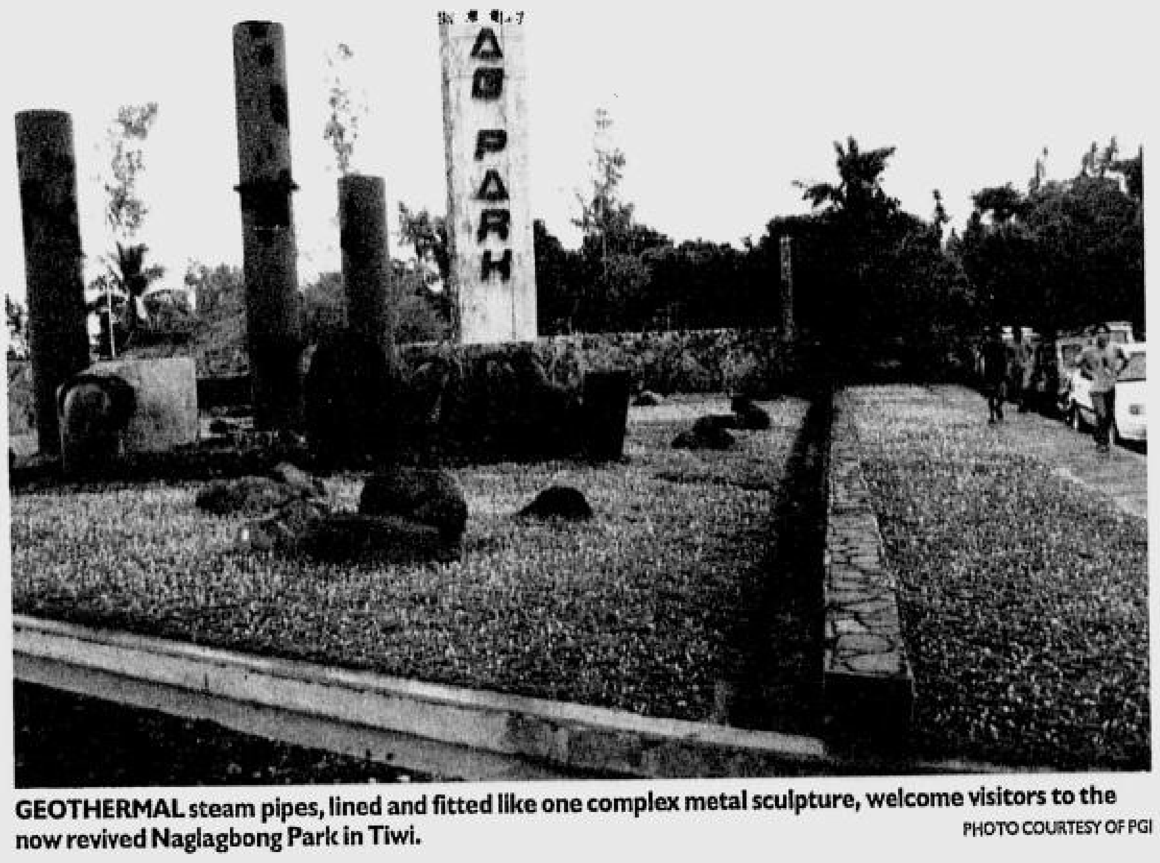
The project launch is a fitting tribute to the residents as it coincides with the 30th year of geothermal development in Tiwi.

"Notwithstanding the demise of surface thermal activity, Nag Park still offers a fertile resource base for geo-ecological park development," PGI president Barry Andrews said.

Restoring five hectares of the area to what is now the Naglagbong Geothermal People's Park (Nag Park), PGI and Napocor, in cooperation with the municipal and provincial governments, have re-developed it into an enhanced natural theme park that brings together the aesthetic, scientific and outdoor appeal of its natural endowments like Mount Mayon and Mount Malinao, said Andrews.

"The many geological features and diverse mix of indigenous flora offer a rich source of learning as well as appreciation of geothermal energy production and other biophysical processes that take place," he added.

The Nag Park also recreates for Tiwi a springboard for a broad range of eco-educational tourism activities, such as trekking, mountaineering, snorkeling and on-site learning of natural forces.



GEOTHERMAL steam pipes, lined and fitted like one complex metal sculpture, welcome visitors to the now revived Naglagbong Park in Tiwi. PHOTO COURTESY OF PGI

Visitors can learn more about the geothermal environment at the Science Centrum, which includes an exhibit area and conference and office facilities.

"The success of Nag Park's restoration is due largely to the valuable support extended by the people of Tiwi," Andrews said.

PGI, a wholly owned subsidiary of Unocal Corp., also marks today its 32nd year in the Philippines. It pioneered the exploration and development of Tiwi's geothermal resources in 1971.

Since then, Tiwi had generated 38,692 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity, equivalent to 66.7 million barrels of oil. It represents about $1.4 billion in foreign exchange savings.

Mayor Patria Gutierrez said "PGI and Tiwi have always had friendly and cordial dialogues that have defined this long standing and synergistic relationship."

The celebration will also be attended by US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez and Rogelio Murga, Napocor president; Pio Benvidez, senior vice president for operations, and Reynaldo Santiago, vice president for geothermal generation.

METROBRIEFS

Van hijacked

EIGHT armed men hijacked a ten-wheeler van carrying P1.6 million worth of Procter and Gamble products on Monday in Pasig City, police said. Rogelio Medallon Jr., 23, an employee of Almighty Transport Service, Inc. and the van's (CSD 764) driver, told the police they were negotiating Pasco Avenue in Barangay Santolan at around 4 a.m. when a Ford Fiera cut their way, forcing them to stop. The suspects got off the vehicle, pointed a gun at Medallon and his two companions, and told them to get off the van. Medallon said they were brought to Sampaloc, Quezon, where they were dumped. A woman came to their rescue. *Luige del Puerto*

Cop in trouble

A POLICE officer of the Southern Police District (SPD) is facing charges of frustrated murder and physical injuries after he allegedly mauled a soldier in Taguig early yesterday morning. According to a police report, SP02 Ramir Olaso, a policeman with SPD's District Inspectorate Unit, along with around six men, allegedly mauled soldier James Perez, his brother Romeo, and security guard Vicente Lapidante. Olaso got angry when Lapidante allegedly urinated on his parked vehicle. *Christine Paita*

Water cutoff

PORTIONS of Novaliches, Quezon City, will have no water for 18 hours starting at 11 p.m. this Saturday, Nov. 15, until 5 p.m. the next day. Maynilad Water said they will install a 600mm diameter butterfly valve on the existing 600mm-diameter mainline along Quirino Highway near the corner of Sarmiento St., Novaliches, Quezon City. The affected areas are: barangays Sta. Monica, San Agustin, Capri, Nagkaisang Nayon and Novaliches Proper.

Dela Cruz; 66

AVELINO Laxina dela Cruz of Guadalupe, Makati City, died on Nov. 3. He was 66. He is survived by his wife, Remedios dela Cruz, and children Ana Rhea and Romel Arcega, Rodney, Aleli, Renedette and Rachiel. He was buried at the Heritage Memorial Park in Fort Bonifacio.

A TECHNICIAN from the PNP Crime Laboratory conducts an inventory of drugs seized on Monday at a warehouse in Valenzuela. JOAN BONDOC

Warehouse yields more illegal drugs

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE SHABU warehouse police discovered the other day in Valenzuela City had an underground room. And inside it police found more chemicals and shabu.

Northern Police District Director Marcelino Franco told the INQUIRER yesterday the liquid shabu could add up to 30 kilos.

The basins of shabu were found in a small room under the warehouse in Benito Hao Street, Mapulang Lupa, where police initially discovered more than P1 billion worth of high-grade shabu and chemicals on Tuesday.

National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force team leader Nelson Yabut said the underground room was discovered after several policemen got suspicious of the warehouse. Some inspectors noticed that their footsteps sounded different inside the warehouse.

The policemen then saw a manhole at the back of the warehouse. When they opened it, the manhole revealed a tunnel which led them to a small room.

Yabut told the INQUIRER yesterday that the underground room was complete with electric bulbs and fan systems. Inside it were several basins of liquid shabu and a number of shabu-manufacturing equipment.

Franco said the drug suppliers could have built the underground room to hide liquid shabu and other chemicals which give off strong fumes.

On Monday afternoon, police arrested four Chinese Nationals and a Filipino-Chinese in Binondo, Manila. The suspects are believed to be members of the biggest transnational drug-supplying syndicate in the country.

The group is also believed to be involved in supplying raw chemicals and equipment to local shabu factories in the Visayas and Mindanao.

The suspects later told the police about the bags of shabu stored in the warehouse waiting for a scheduled shipment.

Yabut said the reported owner of the warehouse, a certain James Ong, has not yet talked to the police.

Franco said the group maintaining the warehouse could have occupied it probably only three months ago.

"Some of the walls were newly constructed. They have just transferred to the warehouse to use it as a storage facility," Franco said.

But Yabut said it was possible that the warehouse had been used as a shabu laboratory but that the suspects stopped when the government intensified its anti-drug campaign.

Manila judge in slapping incident sued

By Tarra Quismundo

A COURT interpreter has filed charges against a Manila judge who allegedly slapped and pulled her hair almost two weeks ago.

Catherine Loja, who is also president of the National Capital Region chapter of the Philippine Association of Court Interpreters, filed charges of physical injury and slander against Judge Concepcion Vergara of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 49.

Vergara is Loja's boss. Loja has been transferred to the Office of the Clerk of Court.

Loja, 41, alleged that on Nov. 5, Vergara slapped and pulled her hair in their office during a heated argument.

In her complaint, Loja also cited alleged "improprieties" by Vergara against other employees such as verbal abuse and physical confrontation.

Vergara has not given a statement on the issue.

MMDA jeepney scheme draws opposing views

By Tina Santos

TWO TRANSPORT group officials yesterday expressed opposing views over the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) plan to implement a scheme similar to its Organized Bus Route for jeepneys.

Efren de Luna, president of Philippine Confederation of Drivers Organization-Alliance of Concerned Transport Operators, said an organized jeepney scheme would mean lower income for drivers.

"With the system, the hapless drivers will be on the loosing end," De Luna said.

He explained, "Imagine how much time it would take for us to queue just to pick up passengers? Of course, the riding public would just prefer to ride the LRT or the MRT rather than wait for our jeepneys to fill up, which definitely takes forever."

On the other hand, Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operators Nationwide (PISTON) chair Medardo Roda welcomed the idea.

Roda, however, expressed the opinion that a scheme for jeepneys similar to the single dispatch system for buses should only be implemented on wide roads.

He added that such a plan should be carefully studied and planned well before the MMDA implements it.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando earlier said that they were looking at limiting the number of jeepneys on the streets at any given time.

The idea would be to just have enough jeepneys on the road, especially during lean hours.

Cholera cases in Caloocan, Malabon

By Norman Bordadora

AT LEAST 10 persons have been afflicted with cholera as the gastroenteritis outbreak in Tondo reached certain areas in Caloocan and Malabon.

The urban poor organization Kilusan ng Maralitang Lungsod yesterday said the victims in Callocan and Malabon were children and teenagers.

Rey Baltazar, head of the KPML, said five victims were confined at a Caloocan hospital after drinking water from taps serviced by Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

In Malabon, at least five persons were likewise hospitalized for water-caused cholera, according to Arceli Binondo, one of the leaders in the fishing town.

"One cholera patient already interviewed on television was actually from Malabon, although he was identified as someone from Tondo," Binondo said.

Baltazar said that while tap water in their area run clearly, a closer look would show suspended particles. Binondo, on the other hand, said that water that runs from mid-morning to early afternoon smells of raw sewage.

"If Maynilad could provide clear and clean water in other times of the day, why can't they sustain its cleanliness at noontime?" Binondo said.

Not surprising at all

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

AS THIS column is being written, I received reports just a while ago that Judge Teresa Yadao had dismissed the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case where Sen. Panfilo Lacson is one of the principal accused.

I am not surprised at all. My friends who thought that Lacson would be arrested and jailed while the case was being heard are naive.

They should have read Ping Lacson's body language. He went about wreaking havoc on other people's reputation like he didn't have the Sword of Damocles hanging over his head.

* * *

The judge said the Department of Justice committed "manifest error and grave abuse of discretion" in filing the case against Ping Lacson.

But how were the "error" and "grave abuse" committed?

I'll make a bet: the lady judge will soon file for early retirement, citing over-fatigue. She can then devote some time in her retirement writing a book probably entitled, "Being a judge: How to resist temptations."

* * *

The prosecution can re-file the case against Ping Lacson in another court since he was not arraigned in Yadao's court.

But it will take some time and by then, Lacson can claim that he's being politically persecuted. Many gullible people will believe him.

That's how the justice system works in this country.

* * *

"People who have less in life should have more in law." Those were the words of President Ramon Magsaysay.

People who have more in life should have much, much more in law. Those should be Yadao's words.

Congratulations, Judge, for having earned yourself a place in history!

* * *

Senators who plan to summon the police SWAT team that assaulted the international airport control tower should think many times.

They'll become the laughingstock if they pursue with the investigation.

They will investigate if the rules of engagement were followed in the killing of former Air Transportation Office (ATO) chief Panfilo Villaruel and Navy Lt. Ricardo Catchillar?

Do rules of engagement apply in going after terrorists?

* * *

I condole with the victims' families, especially that of that Villaruel who many people say was an incorruptible chief of ATO.

(As an aside, my son, who's a newly-licensed helicopter pilot, told me that old pilots told him Villaruel watched over the shoulders of subordinates who gave tests to would-be pilots so those who passed the tests really deserved their pilots' licenses.)

But he was an entirely different man when he and Catchillar seized the control tower. He was no longer the man most people knew. He had become a terrorist.

* * *

Which would the senators choose—the lives of Villaruel and Catchillar, or the lives of hundreds of passengers in an aircraft about to land at the Naia?

The control tower is the heart of the airport. Take away the control tower and the airport will cease to exist.

Without the control tower, planes will collide with one another before, during and after take-off or landing. Villaruel knew this because he was a pilot himself.

* * *

If some senators are crying for blood, let it not be the blood of the members of the SWAT team that assaulted the control tower. Those cops were just doing their job.

If Villaruel's last words were "We surrender," he was surrendering to broadcaster Arnold Clavio who was not the leader of the assault team.

The SWAT team could not have heard Villaruel's surrender because they were not monitoring dzBB but their superiors on the ground who, in turn, were too busy to listen to live broadcasts on the incident.

* * *

If heads should roll, they should be those of Edgardo Manda, Naia general manager, and Senior Supt. Andres Caro, chief of the Aviation Security Group.

Imagine, leaving the security of the Naia control tower, a vital airport installation, at the hands of private security guards! *Kung hindi ba naman mga sangkatutak na tanga!*

Manda never learned his lesson. Several months ago, President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the Naia 2 terminal building and noticed a lax security, and so scolded Manda in public. But Manda was never kicked out.

* * *

It's not only in security that Manda is lax. Most people under him are dishonest.

A friend of mine landed at Naia 1 aboard a Japan Airlines plane recently.

While waiting for her turn at the immigration counter, she suddenly remembered leaving a gift-wrapped package on her seat at the aircraft.

* * *

When she went to the aircraft, the package was no longer there. She asked the flight attendant, who told her she didn't see any package.

She then asked the aircraft maintenance personnel who were already cleaning the aircraft. They said they didn't know.

The maintenance people only came out with the gift-wrapped package after she said she would not leave the aircraft.

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METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Civil society groups talk 'dirty'

By Volt Contreras

MEMBERS of civil society groups have started talking trash after Metro Manila's local governments opted to spend P6 billion to haul garbage than reduce their communities' solid waste.

A Malacañang-backed coalition is offering expertise and organizational support in implementing a garbage management program called SwarmPlan or the Solid Waste Reduction Master Plan.

The offer comes with a warning that a metro-wide garbage crisis looms with the mandated closure by yearend of six open dump sites servicing the capital.

"The goal is to reduce the waste that ends up in dumpsites, land fills, canals, and streets; and to maximize the return of recyclables to factories and of the compostable to the soil," explained Angelina Galang, executive director of Miriam College's Environmental Studies Institute (ESI).

ESI is part of the anti-solid waste coalition that also includes the Ayala Foundation, Polystyrene Packaging Council of the Philippines, Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Philippines, Mother Earth and Concerned Citizens Against Pollution.

SwarmPlan, a product of a series of meetings initially hosted by the Ayala group's Fernando Zobel, has obtained P4 million from the President's Social Fund to be used for the training and monitoring of participating nongovernment organizations (NGOs) in the next two years.

More funds will be raised from private donors in the course of the project.

The plan involves segmenting Metro Manila into sectors which NGOs can focus on: schools, commercial centers, wet markets, subdivisions and condominiums, and industries.

Since the barangay government would be "spared" from handling big waste-producers within its turf, it can then focus on the rest of the community which is not as organized, she said.

SwarmPlan drew urgency from civil society's observation that three years after Congress passed the 2001 Solid Waste Management Act, compliance with the law's requirement remains "dismal" among Metro Manila's 17 towns and cities, or almost 1,700 barangays, Galang said.

Segregation, composting, and recycling initiatives are still hardly a priority for most barangay, town, and city leaders, the coalition has noted.

Under SwarmPlan, the coalition will be inviting NGOs to avail of its seminars and resources to make composting and recycling both a cultural and profitable activity in the communities they serve.

Each coalition member will share know-how and linkages that have been successfully applied in certain sites, such as the Ayala-run malls, some wet markets, schools, upper- and middle-class subdivisions, and even depressed areas.

The coalition frowned that instead of managing their solid waste, the Metro Manila governments spent P6.04 billion in 2001 and nearly P7 billion in 2002 for garbage hauling services.

Odette Alcantara of the Mother Earth Philippines Foundation spoke of "syndicates" benefiting from the present set-up characterized by "multi-billion" garbage contracts.

DH in HK murders hunted

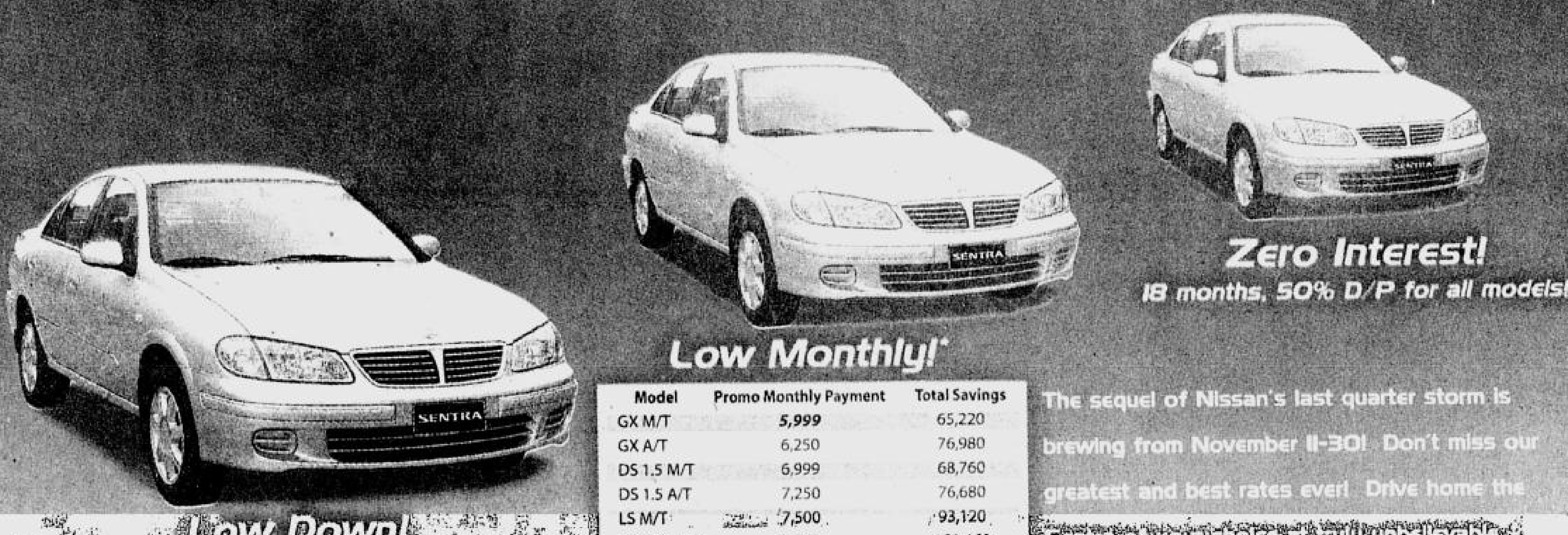
THE HONG Kong police is seeking the help of the National Bureau of Investigation in arresting a male domestic helper wanted for the murder of a couple in the Shatin district.

A reward of HK$400,000 (P2 million) has been raised for the arrest of Magno Manalili, a native of Pampanga.

Manalili allegedly murdered his employers Ng Ka-Mong and Sun King Man, both university professors, last April.

The suspect returned to the Philippines a day after the murder.

Leila Salaverria



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Roddick subdues Moya

HOUSTON—Andy Roddick underlined his determination to finish the year with the number one world ranking on Tuesday, opening his account at the ATP Masters Cup with a feisty 6-2 3-6 6-3 win over Spain's Carlos Moya. *Reuters*

Torre tops Belgium chess

TORRE: Back in form.

ASIA'S first Grandmaster Eugene Torre posted back-to-back wins over Georgian GM Giorgi Bagaturov and Ukrainian GM Mihail Golubev in the last two rounds to emerge champion of the Filipino-dominated 15 de Open van Leuven chess championship Tuesday night in Leuven, Belgium.

GMs Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor finished tied for second to fourth places with Russian Super GM Vladimir Epishin, while NM Oliver Barbosa shared fifth place in the 112-man tournament.

The 52-year-old Torre accumulated seven wins and two draws to finish with a total of 8 points in nine games and receive the top purse of 1,500 Euros.

"I am just happy to win this title. Thanks to the support of the First Gentleman Foundation and the Philippine Sports Commission," said Torre in an interview with INQUIRER Sports.

Torre, back-to-back (2001-2002) Philippine Open champion, also beat Filip Bosmans, Frank Albert, David Houdart of Belgium, Ukrainian GM Alexander Goloshapov and Fide Master Stephen Berry of England.

The Quezon City-based Torre drew with Belgian IM Pieter Claesen and top seed Russian Super GM Vladimir Epishin.

"This is proof that our SEA Games-bound players are now in top condition for the Vietnam competition," said lawyer Sammy Estimo, secretary general of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines headed by lawyer Matias Defensor.

Completing the Vietnam-bound SEAG team are IMs Mark Paragua, Ronald Dableo and Jayson Gonzales.

The 41-year-old Antonio, a member of the Army Special Services and being supported by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, and the 38-year-old Villamayor, Airman 2nd class under Brig. Gen. Jaime Viernes, wound up with 7 points each in the company of Epishen.

"I'm satisfied with our performance, at least *kami-kami halos ang nanalo* (we almost pulled off a sweep)," said Antonio, fresh from topping the recently Bangkok Open in Pattaya. *NM Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Sebastian next PSC commish?

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RUMORS of an impending revamp in the Philippine Sports Commission again swirled yesterday as news of the forthcoming appointment of weightlifting legend Jaime Sebastian as commissioner of the agency broke out.

A source close to Sebastian said no less than President Arroyo had told the bemedalled lifter he would be named commissioner when he was summoned to Malacañang last Tuesday.

The same source said the 52-year-old Sebastian, who also served as national coach after winning several SEA Games titles, was pleasantly surprised by Mrs. Arroyo's decision, but added he has not received any letter of appointment yet.

"I don't want to pre-empt the President," Sebastian was quoted by the source as saying. "I will just wait for whatever her instructions are."

During the one-on-one meeting with the President, Sebastian, the source said, recalled the name of former commissioner Eli Bontigao being mentioned as another appointee.

The same Bontigao had already been mentioned as possible replacement for PSC chair Eric Buhain when rumors of a possible shake-up in the agency started at the height of the Mindanao Friendship Games some three weeks ago.

Also being mentioned as prospective PSC head are Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza and former PSC commissioner Richie Garcia.

The present commissioners are Leon Montemayor, Mike Barredo, Ambrocio De Luna and Buth Ramirez, who had earlier announced plans of leaving the agency.

Buhain was unperturbed by the rumors, however, saying he was more concerned with ensuring a good performance by the 658-strong RP contingent in the SEA Games scheduled Dec. 5-13 in Vietnam.

Sticking to his earlier projection of a 40-60 gold medal production, Buhain said the PSC, in close cooperation with the NSAs and coaches, has done its best in preparing the athletes at a cost of about P100 million.

This is apart from the P22.4 million raised by the First Gentleman's Foundation to finance the foreign exposure of 85 athletes expected to deliver golds in the biennial sportsfest.

Buhain had earlier sought Malacañang's help in taking care of the P90 million budget for the actual participation of the national team.

Fash Liquid tackles Blu

GAMES TODAY (UST Gym)
1:45 p.m. — Blu Star vs Fash Liquid
3:45 p.m.— ICTSI-La Salle vs Sunkist-UST

FASH Liquid Detergent collides with Blu Star today as the 2003 PBL Platinum Cup moves to the UST Gym following a successful tour of San Beda College the other day.

The Liquid Power suffered a 67-70 loss to Montaña Pawnshop last Saturday, but coach Junel Baculi is hoping that defeat will serve as a catalyst for his players to work hard and recapture the old fire that enabled them to win the first conference dubbed as Sunkist Unity Cup.

"I just hope my boys will play with more intensity this time," said Baculi.

Gametime is set at 1:45 p.m.

But focus of attention will be on the ICTSI-Sunkist-UST match at 3:45 p.m. where the Tigers will be playing with a key advantage on their side: the crowd.

The cheers will definitely play a big factor for the Tigers but the España-based squad must play with passion to beat the Archers, who are also seeking to barge into the win-column following a sorry defeat to the Detergent Kings last Saturday.

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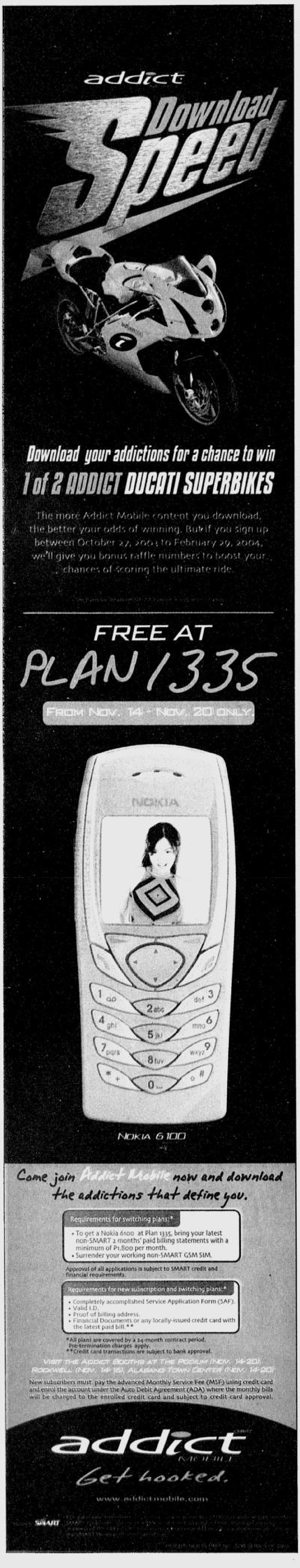
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Realtors trounce Aces

By June Navarro

GAMES TOMORROW (Cuneta Astrodome)
5 p.m.—Ginebra vs Coca-Cola
7:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk N Text

IF THERE'S one team Kenneth Duremdes is hell-bent on beating, it has to be the Alaska Aces.

Traded by the Aces at the beginning of the season, Duremdes got back at his former team by helping Sta. Lucia Realty post an 88-79 victory last night in the quarterfinals of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena.

The 1998 MVP poured seven of his 15 points in the final quarter as the Realtors erected a comfortable margin and then fended off several rallies by the Aces down the stretch.

Later, Kwan Johnson fired 31 points as San Miguel Beer beat FedEx, 97-92, in the opener of their own best-of-three series.

Dennis Espino and Marlou Aquino unleashed their usual game in the shaded area and finished with 26 and 17 points, respectively.

Ray Tutt, who replaced the injured Damian Owens after the eliminations, also didn't disappoint as he tossed in 19 markers and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Realtors.

DUREMDES

But playmaker Jason Webb got the biggest praise from Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua.

Webb logged only four points, five assists and seven rebounds but took care of the things needed by the Realtors at crunchtime.

Game 2 of the Aces-Realtors best-of-three quarterfinals series is on Sunday with Sta. Lucia Realty hoping to advance to the semifinals for the third time in seven straight playoff appearances.

With Ali Peek sitting on the bench, the Aces completely struggled in the shaded area. Peek is expected to suit up for the Aces in Game 2 after undergoing surgery to remove fluids in his left knee.

Meanwhile, the PBA will hold a poster-making contest evolving on the themes "Ang PBA idol ko at ako sa Pasko" and "Dress-up my PBA idol this Christmas."

PBA telecast

The Intercontineal Broadcasting Corporation will resume its telecast of the PBA games tomorrow following a compromise reached between IBC and National Broadcasting Network officials Tuesday night.

Scores

STA. LUCIA 88—Espino 26, Tutt 19, Aquino 17, Duremdes 15, Webb 4, Victolero 3, Adriano 2, Francisco 2, Bat-og 0, Ong 0, Mendoza 0, Tan 0.

ALASKA 79—Fontaine 17, Cablay 17, Allado 13, Cortez 12, Arigo 8, Felhl 6, Duat 4, Tejada 2, Padilla 0, Noble 0.

Quarters: 19-25, 41-38, 59-61, 88-79.

Literal line

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE TROUBLE with some, if not many, of our sports leaders is they talk a lot. Talking is not bad per se. It becomes bad when, after the talking, nothing comes out of it. All sound, no result. The despicable side of talking is when it deteriorates into an aimless exercise of the vocal chords. Blah, blah, blah. Directionless.

Take the case of basketball.

Noli Eala and Chino Trinidad have called on Tiny Literal and Nic Jorge to kiss and make up for the good of Philippine basketball. Fine. That's what this nation needs all these years: unity. Not only in sports but also in the entire political spectrum of society.

But what unity are they talking about?

All these years, things are crystal-clear and I don't know why they are mouthing such gobbledygook. Do they really know what they are talking about?

If you don't know which of them is the rightful body to deal with, then you might be afflicted with amnesia or, worst, Alzheimer's disease and you seem not to know it at all.

The issue you seem to be harping about, fellas, is a non-issue at all. Unity? Out of order. That's not an issue to begin with. The issue is recognition.

Doesn't both the POC and Fiba recognize Literal's BAP?

Get this, Noli and Chino. You want to build a basketball team for the Asian Games, World Championship and ABC?

You don't have to look far. There's Literal, the one literally recognized by the POC and Fiba as the person you need to deal with to produce your team.

Look, the amateur basketball backyard is on solid ground if you would only care to use your brains, amigos.

Literal is president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP), the one recognized not only by the Philippine Olympic Committee but by Fiba (World Basketball Federation) as well.

Jorge is president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines Inc. (Bapi), the one recognized by the Court of Appeals as the official amateur basketball body in the Philippines.

In case you have forgotten, courts of the land anywhere in the world are usually nonexistent entities as far as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is concerned. The IOC being a virtual government itself like the Vatican City, the IOC has courts and laws of its own.

So my advice, Noli and Chino, is go talk to Literal. Lay down your cards.

You can't go on talking without Literal. You can't form a national team without Literal. Everything that you do that is geared toward the formation of a team, you need Literal. Otherwise, you are only wasting your time, if not your saliva.

Nic Jorge? He is your best argument when you deal with Tiny Literal.

While the two of you are on your way to the boardroom, tag Literal along and shut the door on Jorge. If Jorge would insist and break down the door to force the issue, give him a seat and an observer status. Next, offer him coffee. If he asks for cream, call the guards.

***

FASTBREAK. Bon voyage to Diding Mosher of Phoenix, Arizona, and love birds Nonong and Astrid and their son, Patrick, all of Glan, Austria. They are homeward bound today after spending quality time with their Mommy Dearest Rosie (Tutica-Fernandez) in Roxas City. Their great hosts were Nelson and Vielma Almonguera, Dr. Nono Cosio and Madam Inday Tutica. Dante and Ching Fernandez of SSS Village, Marikina City, did their own hosting in the Big City like Sol Juvida, the UP-Diliman professor who kept the wine flowing particularly for the Austrian couple, Nonong and Astrid. Have a nice and safe journey, dolls and guys, and see you all soon. Bye Patrick. Hope you treat that tobacco case like your own beautiful edelweiss. Ciao!...The Ateneo Basketball League is inviting all Ateneo alumni, students and employees to join its 2004 season. For inquiries, call Chiqui Paterno at 0917-5337778 or Jun Dalandan at 426-6081, or log on to www.abl-ph.com.

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Champs' cagefest on today

THE SHOWDOWN for collegiate supremacy unfolds today when Champions' League 2003 kicks off at the Makati Coliseum. Staking their opening claims for the bragging rights to be called the country's No. 1 collegiate teams are St. Francis of Assisi which battles Adamson at 2:30 p.m. and Ateneo which tangles with Jose Rizal University at 5 p.m.

On Saturday at the Philsports Arena, NAASCU title holder University of Manila battles San Sebastian, while NCAA champion Letran clashes with Emilio Aguinaldo College. On Monday at the Makati Coliseum, UAAP champion FEU faces off with Las Piñas College, while University of the East begins its defense of the Champions League crown against Holy Cross of Davao College, the Visayas-Mindanao representative.

SPORTSWATCH

Benitez sizzles

IRENE Benitez posted a high-game series in the premier ladies' Class O singles in the 23rd Pasig Bowling Association Tenpin Open Championships on Tuesday at the Green Valley Country Club in Pasig City. Ramirez sizzled with a four-game series of 210, 252, 223 and 244 for a high score of 929 for SLETBA-Euromed against the 863 of PBAB-Bowlmart's Liza Clutario.

Joey, Mark chess bets

BANGKOK Open champ GM Rogelio Antonio and IM Mark Paragua will be the country's representative in the rapid individual event of the 22nd Vietnam Southeast Asian Games from Dec. 4-13 in Ho Chi Minh City. National Chess Federation of the Philippines secretary general lawyer Sammy Estimo said Antonio and Paragua were chosen on the basis of their international performance and Fide ratings. The original format allows each country to field five players in the event. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

AFP booters trip rivals

THE GLOBE Super Cup's Week-3 belongs to the football clubs from the armed forces. Philippine Air Force thrashed Kaya FC 8-1; Navy routed the Presidents Men, 5-0, while Army beat Nomads A, 5-1. All three armed forces football clubs remain undefeated. Other weekend matches saw College of St. Benilde trip Union FC, 4-1; UST Growling Tigers edge Onze, 4-2; Ateneo nip Pasargad, 2-1; Manila All-Japan subdue Laos, 3-2; and San Beda College beat Mendiola FC, 4-2.

Wellness Cup at Valley

THE FIRST play for Wellness Cup tees off today at the Valley Golf Club in Cainta, Rizal. Rechie Cristobal, Family Wellness Center Foundation executive director, said the event highlights another year of success at getting families affected by drug abuse back on track. Major sponsors are Hewlett Packard Phils., United Laboratories Inc. (Alaxan), Pioneer Insurance, Paragaon Brokerage, David Tan, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Grotrade Inc. and Dream Cable.

Adventure race returns

ADVENTURE race and extreme games aficionados gird for action for the final and toughest leg of the Enduro San Mig Light Adventure Race on Nov. 28 and 30. Registration is still open at www.inq7.net or through tel. 531-7018. The event is sponsored by San Mig Light, in cooperation with Sony Handycam, Salomon and inq7.net, and organized by Team Momentum, the activation team of McCann-Erickson Philippines.

Taipei, Korea bets win

QUALIFIERS Chen Yi of Chinese Taipei and Lyoo Mi of Korea ousted their seeded rivals yesterday to reach the second round of the US$10,000 Union Cement-International Tennis Federation Women's Circuit 2 at the Manila Polo Club. Chen clobbered sixth seed Mari Inoue of Indonesia, 6-1, 6-2, while Lyoo downed seventh pick La Po Kuen of Hong Kong, 6-3, 6-2.

LGBA 7-stag derby

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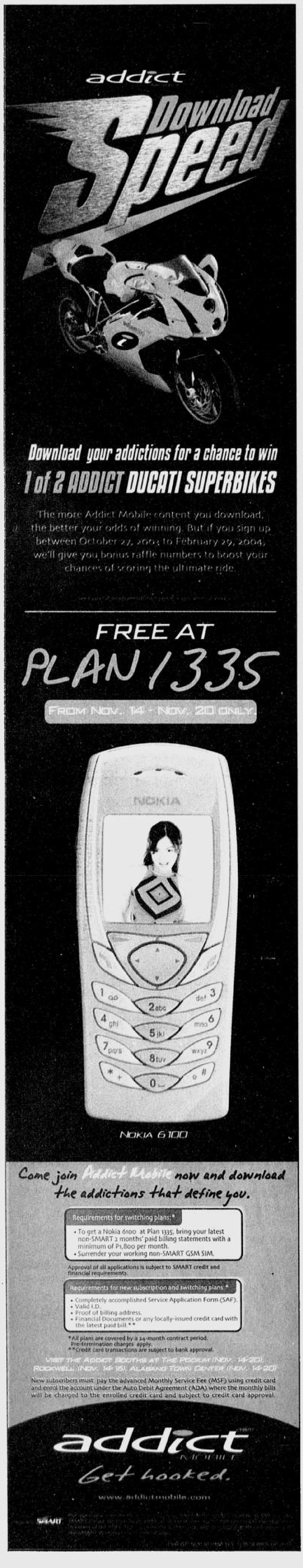
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SMART

Realtors trounce Aces

By June Navarro

GAMES TOMORROW (Cuneta Astrodome)
5 p.m.—Ginebra vs Coca-Cola
7:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk N Text

IF THERE'S one team Kenneth Duremdes is hell-bent on beating, it has to be the Alaska Aces.

Traded by the Aces at the beginning of the season, Duremdes got back at his former team by helping Sta. Lucia Realty post an 88-79 victory last night in the quarterfinals of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena.

The 1998 MVP poured seven of his 15 points in the final quarter as the Realtors erected a comfortable margin and then fended off several rallies by the Aces down the stretch.

Later, Kwan Johnson fired 31 points as San Miguel Beer beat FedEx, 97-92, in the opener of their own best-of-three series.

Dennis Espino and Marlou Aquino unleashed their usual game in the shaded area and finished with 26 and 17 points, respectively.

Ray Tutt, who replaced the injured Damian Owens after the eliminations, also didn't disappoint as he tossed in 19 markers and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Realtors.

DUREMDES

But playmaker Jason Webb got the biggest praise from Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua.

Webb logged only four points, five assists and seven rebounds but took care of the things needed by the Realtors at crunchtime.

Game 2 of the Aces-Realtors best-of-three quarterfinals series is on Sunday with Sta. Lucia Realty hoping to advance to the semifinals for the third time in seven straight playoff appearances.

With Ali Peek sitting on the bench, the Aces completely struggled in the shaded area. Peek is expected to suit up for the Aces in Game 2 after undergoing surgery to remove fluids in his left knee.

Meanwhile, the PBA will hold a poster-making contest evolving on the themes "Ang PBA idol ko at ako sa Pasko" and "Dress-up my PBA idol this Christmas."

PBA telecast

The Intercontineal Broadcasting Corporation will resume its telecast of the PBA games tomorrow following a compromise reached between IBC and National Broadcasting Network officials Tuesday night.

Scores

STA. LUCIA 88—Espino 26, Tutt 19, Aquino 17, Duremdes 15, Webb 4, Victolero 3, Adriano 2, Francisco 2, Bat-og 0, Ong 0, Mendoza 0, Tan 0.

ALASKA 79—Fontaine 17, Cablay 17, Allado 13, Cortez 12, Arigo 8, Feihl 6, Duat 4, Tejada 2, Padilla 0, Noble 0.

Quarters: 19-25, 41-38, 59-61, 88-79.

Literal line

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE TROUBLE with some, if not many, of our sports leaders is they talk a lot. Talking is not bad per se. It becomes bad when, after the talking, nothing comes out of it. All sound, no result. The despicable side of talking is when it deteriorates into an aimless exercise of the vocal chords. Blah, blah, blah. Directionless.

Take the case of basketball.

Noli Eala and Chino Trinidad have called on Tiny Literal and Nic Jorge to kiss and make up for the good of Philippine basketball. Fine. That's what this nation needs all these years: unity. Not only in sports but also in the entire political spectrum of society.

But what unity are they talking about?

All these years, things are crystal-clear and I don't know why they are mouthing such gobbledygook. Do they really know what they are talking about?

If you don't know which of them is the rightful body to deal with, then you might be afflicted with amnesia or, worst, Alzheimer's disease and you seem not to know it at all.

The issue you seem to be harping about, fellas, is a non-issue at all. Unity? Out of order. That's not an issue to begin with. The issue is recognition.

Doesn't both the POC and Fiba recognize Literal's BAP?

Get this, Noli and Chino. You want to build a basketball team for the Asian Games, World Championship and ABC?

You don't have to look far. There's Literal, the one literally recognized by the POC and Fiba as the person you need to deal with to produce your team.

Look, the amateur basketball backyard is on solid ground if you would only care to use your brains, amigos.

Literal is president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP), the one recognized not only by the Philippine Olympic Committee but by Fiba (World Basketball Federation) as well.

Jorge is president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines Inc. (Bapi), the one recognized by the Court of Appeals as the official amateur basketball body in the Philippines.

In case you have forgotten, courts of the land anywhere in the world are usually nonexistent entities as far as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is concerned. The IOC being a virtual government itself like the Vatican City, the IOC has courts and laws of its own.

So my advice, Noli and Chino, is go talk to Literal. Lay down your cards.

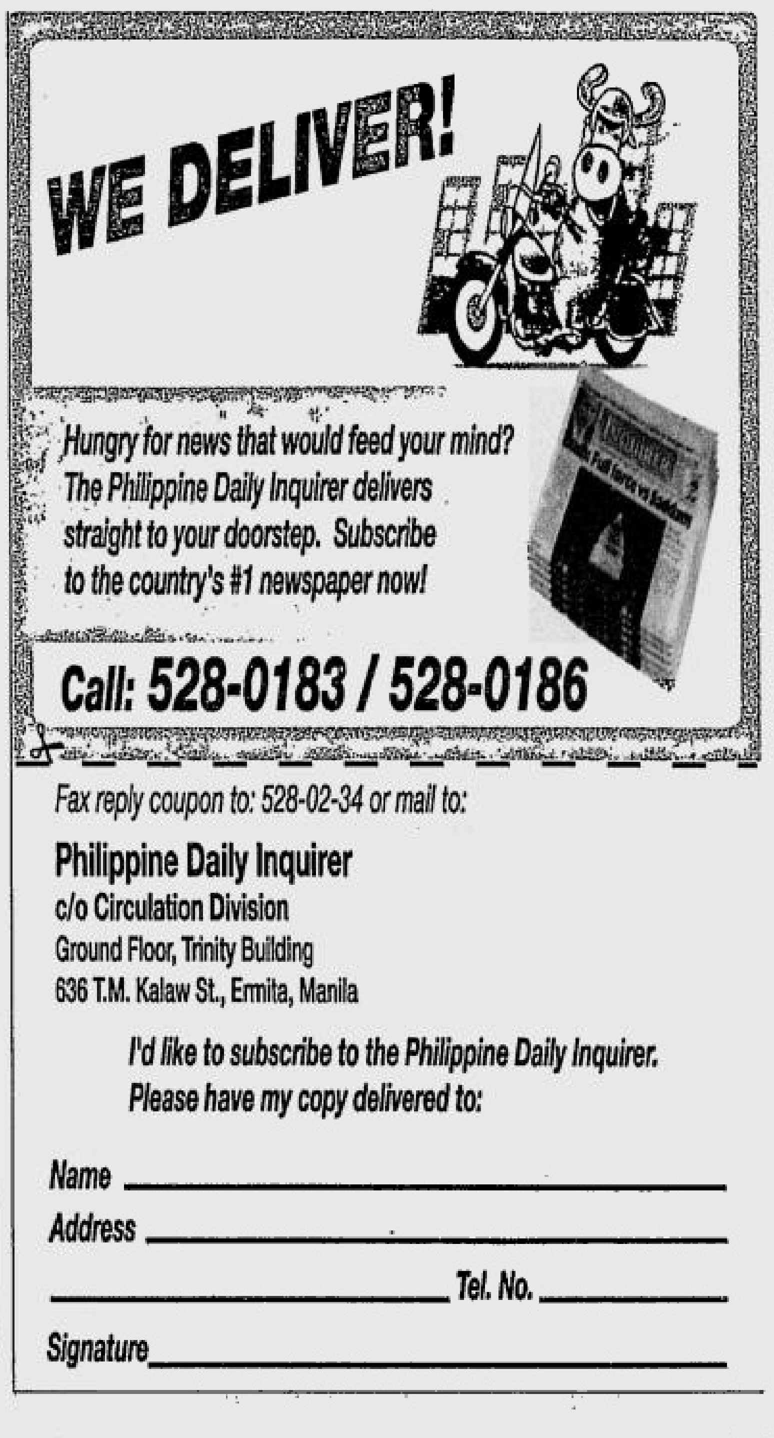
You can't go on talking without Literal. You can't form a national team without Literal. Everything that you do that is geared toward the formation of a team, you need Literal. Otherwise, you are only wasting your time, if not your saliva.

Nic Jorge? He is your best argument when you deal with Tiny Literal.

While the two of you are on your way to the boardroom, tag Literal along and shut the door on Jorge. If Jorge would insist and break down the door to force the issue, give him a seat and an observer status. Next, offer him coffee. If he asks for cream, call the guards.

***

FASTBREAK. Bon voyage to Diding Mosher of Phoenix, Arizona, and love birds Nonong and Astrid and their son, Patrick, all of Glan, Austria. They are homeward bound today after spending quality time with their Mommy Dearest Rosie (Tutica-Fernandez) in Roxas City. Their great hosts were Nelson and Vielma Almonguera, Dr. Nono Cosio and Madam Inday Tutica. Dante and Ching Fernandez of SSS Village, Marikina City, did their own hosting in the Big City like Sol Juvida, the UP-Diliman professor who kept the wine flowing particularly for the Austrian couple, Nonong and Astrid. Have a nice and safe journey, dolls and guys, and see you all soon. Bye Patrick. Hope you treat that tobacco case like your own beautiful edelweiss. Ciao!...The Ateneo Basketball League is inviting all Ateneo alumni, students and employees to join its 2004 season. For inquiries, call Chiqui Paterno at 0917-5337778 or Jun Dalandan at 426-6081, or log on to www.abl-ph.com.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Champs' cagefest on today

THE SHOWDOWN for collegiate supremacy unfolds today when Champions' League 2003 kicks off at the Makati Coliseum. Staking their opening claims for the bragging rights to be called the country's No. 1 collegiate teams are St. Francis of Assisi which battles Adamson at 2:30 p.m. and Ateneo which tangles with Jose Rizal University at 5 p.m.

On Satuday at the Philsports Arena, NAASCU title holder University of Manila battles San Sebastian, while NCAA champion Letran clashes with Emilio Aguinaldo College. On Monday at the Makati Coliseum, UAAP champion FEU faces off with Las Piñas College, while University of the East begins its defense of the Champions League crown against Holy Cross of Davao College, the Visayas-Mindanao representative.

SPORTSWATCH

Benitez sizzles

IRENE Benitez posted a high-game series in the premier ladies' Class O singles in the 23rd Pasig Bowling Association Tenpin Open Championships on Tuesday at the Green Valley Country Club in Pasig City. Ramirez sizzled with a four-game series of 210, 252, 223 and 244 for a high score of 929 for SLETBA-Euromed against the 863 of PBAB-Bowlmart's Liza Clutario.

Joey, Mark chess bets

BANGKOK Open champ GM Rogelio Antonio and IM Mark Paragua will be the country's representative in the rapid individual event of the 22nd Vietnam Southeast Asian Games from Dec. 4-13 in Ho Chi Minh City. National Chess Federation of the Philippines secretary general lawyer Sammy Estimo said Antonio and Paragua were chosen on the basis of their international performance and Fide ratings. The original format allows each country to field five players in the event. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

AFP booters trip rivals

THE GLOBE Super Cup's Week-3 belongs to the football clubs from the armed forces. Philippine Air Force thrashed Kaya FC 8-1; Navy routed the Presidents Men, 5-0, while Army beat Nomads A, 5-1. All three armed forces football clubs remain undefeated. Other weekend matches saw College of St. Benilde trip Union FC, 4-1; UST Growling Tigers edge Onze, 4-2; Ateneo nip Pasargad, 2-1; Manila All-Japan subdue Laos, 3-2; and San Beda College beat Mendiola FC, 4-2.

Wellness Cup at Valley

THE FIRST play for Wellness Cup tees off today at the Valley Golf Club in Cainta, Rizal. Rechie Cristobal, Family Wellness Center Foundation executive director, said the event highlights another year of success at getting families affected by drug abuse back on track. Major sponsors are Hewlett Packard Phils., United Laboratories Inc. (Alaxan), Pioneer Insurance, Paragaon Brokerage, David Tan, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Grotrade Inc. and Dream Cable.

Adventure race returns

ADVENTURE race and extreme games aficionados gird for action for the final and toughest leg of the Enduro San Mig Light Adventure Race on Nov. 28 and 30. Registration is still open at www.inq7.net or through tel. 531-7018. The event is sponsored by San Mig Light, in cooperation with Sony Handycam, Salomon and inq7.net, and organized by Team Momentum, the activation team of McCann-Erickson Philippines.

Taipei, Korea bets win

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Compubox rates Barrera highly over Pacquiao

COMPUBOX, the world leader in scientific and computer-generated stats in boxing, predicts Marco Antonio Barrera would pull off a masterful performance against Filipino Manny Pacquiao when they rumble this Sunday at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

The boxing tabulator also hints at a possible late-round stoppage by Barrera, if Pacquiao is not careful.

Barrera, touted by most boxing fans as the best featherweight in the planet, takes on IBF superbantam champion Pacquiao in a 12-round clash dubbed by experts as the People's Championship of the World and Ring Magazine's featherweight championship.

Barrera is a 4-1 favorite to whip the Filipino icon. Against Johnny Tapia, Barrera landed a featherweight record of 179 jabs. *Salven Lagumbay*

76ers lick Wizards

WASHINGTON—Allen Iverson continues to thrive at his old college stomping grounds.

Iverson poured in a season-high 40 points and Eric Snow had 13 and 11 assists as the Philadelphia 76ers posted a 112-105 victory on Tuesday over the Washington Wizards.

Iverson entered with a 29.3-point career scoring average against the Wizards, tops among active National Basketball Association players.

He starred collegiately at nearby Georgetown, developing a huge following, and every basket and foray to the hoop was greeted by cheers in this one.

After a dazzling 21-point first half, Iverson continued to weave his way through the Wizards with his trademark grit and speed.

IVERSON

But Iverson served as a decoy on the game's biggest play.

The Sixers have won 12 of the last 13 games in which Iverson scores 40 points, improving to 31-17 all-time.

Other results: Boston 78, Indiana 76; Seattle 89, Minnesota 87; Dallas 125, New Orleans 97; Houston 90, Miami 70; Portland 83, Toronto 80; Sacramento 97, Detroit 91; LA Clippers 115, Atlanta 103.

- SOLAR Sports will telecast an NBA double-header today featuring the game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Toronto Raptors at 7 p.m. on IBC-13 and the Detroit Pistons-Golden State Warriors match "live" at 10:30 a.m. on Channel 29, with a replay at 10 p.m. *AFP*

Juvic favored in Baguio Samsung golf

BAGUIO—Multititled Juvic Pagunsan takes another shot at a ticket to the national finals against practically the entire Canlubang team when the fifth leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour and Putting Challenge is held starting today at the challenging Camp John Hay course here.

Though his opponents admit it will be hard beating Pagunsan, the icy-cool weather is expected to play a crucial factor for challengers in the championship division like Jay Bayron, Boyet Zaragosa, Ronnie Torrecampo, Dave Hernandez and Rolly Viray.

The mainstays of the vaunted Canlubang team which has set the winning record in the PAL Interclub head a huge field of no less than 160 players in the tourney serving as the sixth leg of a nationwide series sponsored by Samsung.

Aside from appliances put up by Samsung for the top three finishers, the winners also advance to the grand finals this coming March at Mt. Malarayat Golf. Eastridge and Tagaytay Midlands will host the last two legs of the eliminations.

The Samsung Tour is co-sponsored by Mario's Restaurant, Wilson, Gatorade, Tokyo Tokyo, Microtel, Custom Clubmakers, Rogin-E and Dunlop Golf with radio stations Killer Bee, Citylite 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite as official media partners.

Other divisions to be disputed are Class A, Class B and Class C in the men's play and Class A and Class B in the women's side.

Ubix-Riviera pro-am stakes Toyotas for aces

THE UBIX-Riviera National Pro-Am will stake two Toyota cars as hole-in-one prizes during the Celebrity event on Nov. 18 and tournament proper on Nov. 19-22 at Riviera's Langer course in Silang, Cavite.

"It has been our commitment since the Pro-Am was revived in 2001 and we are abiding by that," said Danny Isla, vice president for marketing of Toyota Motor Philippines.

The tournament is offering an increased purse of P1.2 million, courtesy of U-Bix president Bert Bravo, tournament godfather the last three years.

Raul and Paul Minoza will defend the crown they wrested last year from Noli Kempis and Erwin Vinluan.

"I believe we have another banner year of participants this year," said organizing committee chair Comm. Danny Pizarro (ret.), who is the Riviera president.

Notable entries are Gerard Cantada and JR Tanpinco, Marlon Dizon and Bones Floro, Jun Cedo and Juami Rocha, Juanito and Juvic Pagunsan, Rey Pagunsan and Rico Javier, Rodrigo Cuello and Rudy Amata, Richard Sinfuego and Bobby Inigo, and Roger Cabajar and Fredivic Baligasa.

Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, the NGAP honorary chair, and NGAP president Rod Feliciano will hit the ceremonial ball with Bravo in the event backed by Riso digital photocopiers, Caffe Appassionato, Nike, Casino Filipino, Pivo Praha, Grappa's, S-Yard, Konica, Okamura office furniture, Epson and Toyota Motor Phils.

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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Pistons vs Warriors; 10:30 a.m. (r-10 p.m.); Solar Sports; Raptors vs Lakers; 7 p.m.; IBC 13 - Motown goes to the Bay Area as Detroit visits Golden State while Vinsanity hits Hollywood as Toronto tangles with Los Angeles.

NBA Greatest Games - Pistons vs Sixers, Game 5, 2003 Eastern Semifinals; 8:30 a.m.; Solar Sports - After trailing by as many as 14 points into the 3rd quarter, Philadelphia rally back with an amazing effort by Eric Snow, but still come up one point short at the buzzer.

POOL: World Pool Masters 2003; 10 a.m. (r) and 8:30 p.m.; ESPN - Pinoy cue masters take center stage as Efren Reyes battles Tom Storm and Alex Pagulayan faces Tony Drago.

GOLF: The Tour Championship Highlights; 3:30 p.m.; Star Sports - Check out the best moments from the most recent PGA tournament.

Inside the PGA Tour; 4:30 p.m. (r - 7 p.m.); Star Sports - Find out the latest in the world of golf.

TENNIS: Masters Cup 2003; 9 a.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Star Sports - The action continues deep in the heart of Texas.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2--1. Color of the Wind 2. Queen Ramasas 3. Marinela 4. Moore Magic

Race 3--1. Alexis Magic 2. Alessandra 3. Espiriktik 4. Hurricane Doding 5. Queen of Gala

Race 4--1. Long Road 2. Mighty Dragon 3. Ocean Menary 4. Gold Marlin 5. El Magnifico 6. Friendly Lover

Race 5--1. Mini Skirt 2. Queen of D'Jungle 3. Hingis 4. King Ram

Race 6--1. La Española 2. St. Emilion 3. Bring Home D Bacon 4. May's Magic 5. Kusang Loob

Race 7--1. Boogie Shoes 2. Ikaw Pag-Asa Ko 3. Material Trick 4. Night Flight

Race 8--1. Profit Master 2. Absurd 3. Glamour Girl 4. Native Talent 5. Winning Streak 6. Give and Take

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Gina Flores and Nikki Espiritu (Silver)
Cheryl Sioco and Violy Alipio (Bronze)

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Ma. Hilda Sta. Ana and Jheng Raguntan (Gold)
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Teresa Supangco and Pamela Alcantara (Gold)
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Mary Grace Riveral and Edith Magnaye (Bronze)

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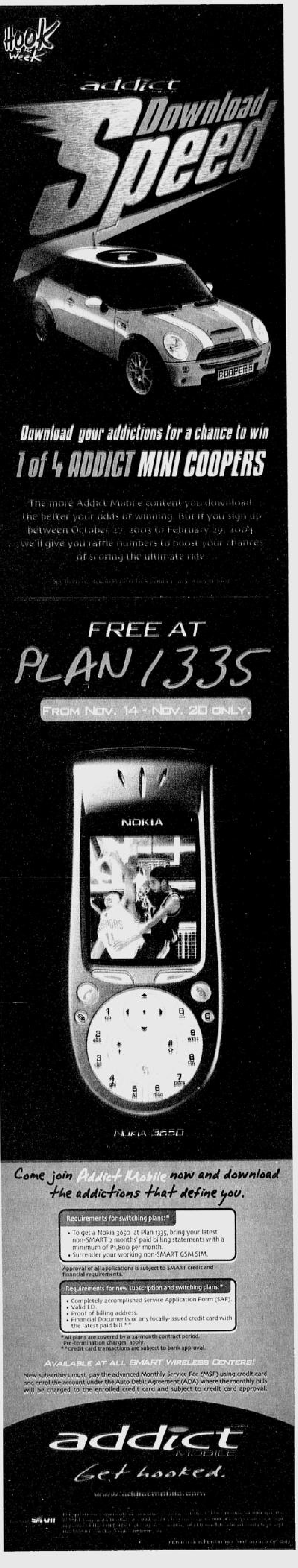

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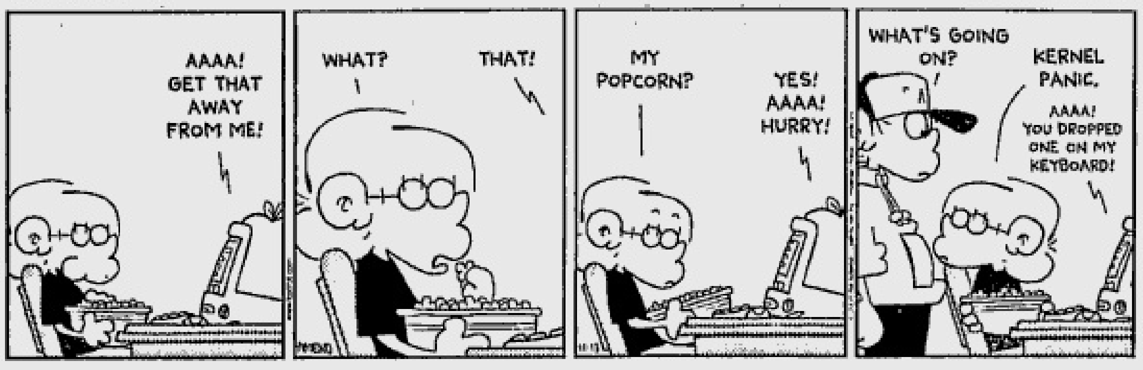
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THAT!
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YES! AAAA! HURRY!
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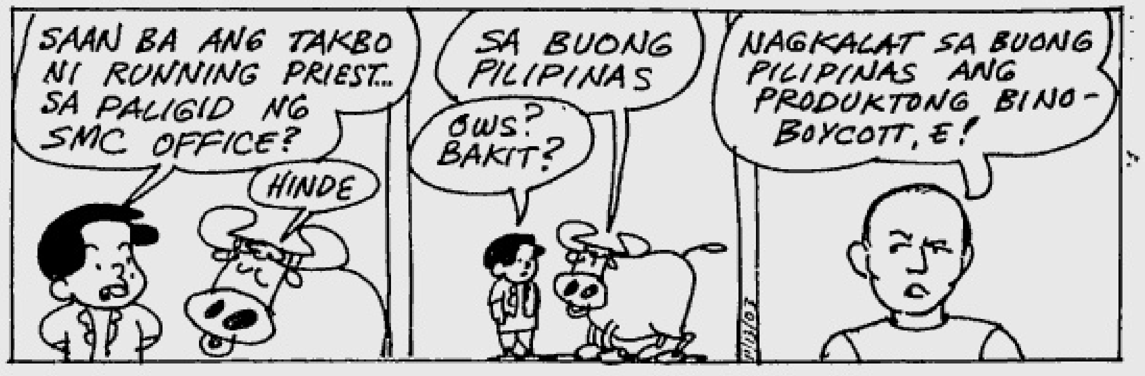
KERNEL PANIC.
AAAA! YOU DROPPED ONE ON MY KEYBOARD!

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA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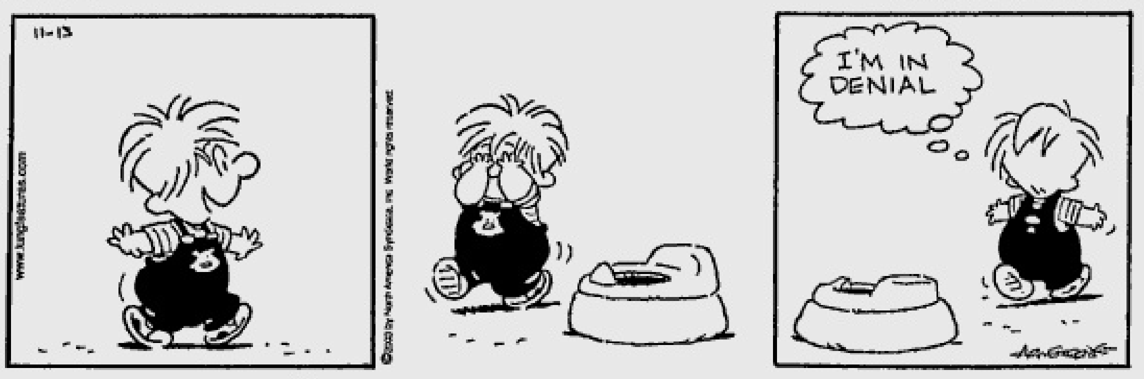
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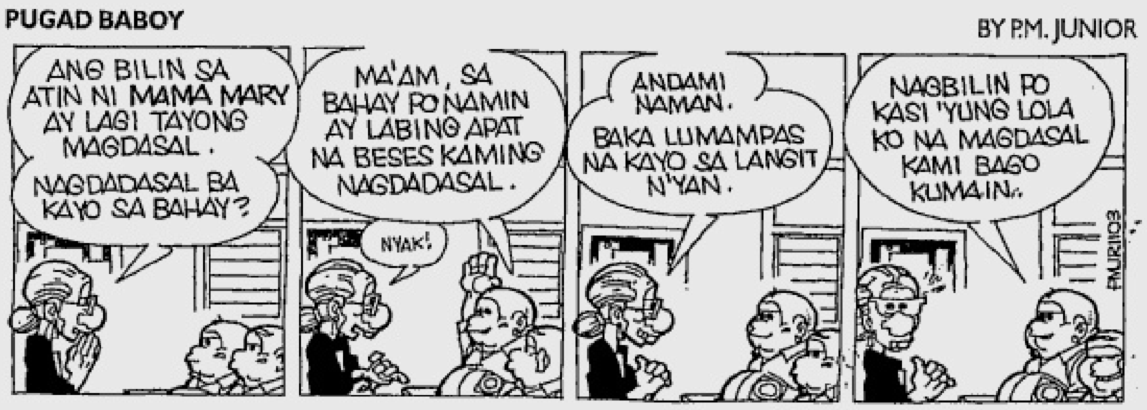
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MA'AM, SA BAHAY PO NAMIN AY LABING APAT NA BESES KAMING NAGDADASAL.
NYAK!
ANDAMI NAMAN.
BAKA LUMAMPAS NA KAYO SA LANGIT N'YAN.
NAGBILIN PO KASI 'YUNG LOLA KO NA MAGDASAL KAMI BAGO KUMAIN.
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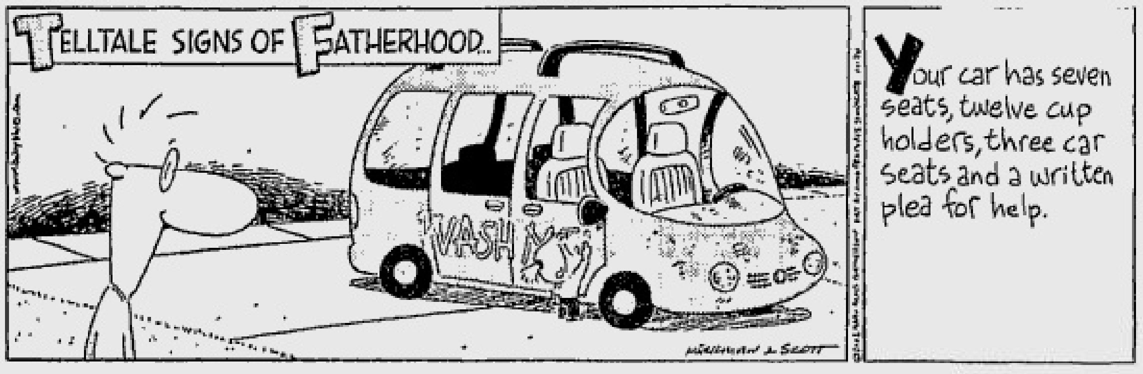
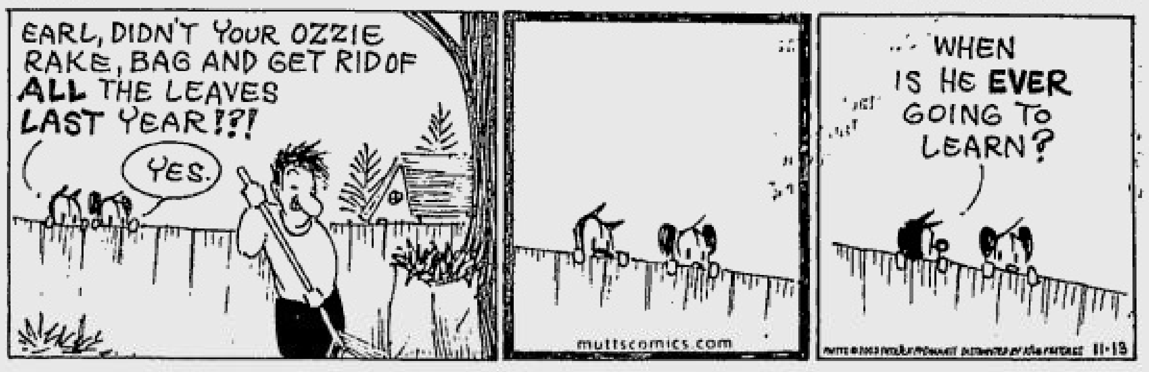
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


TELLTALE SIGNS OF FATHERHOOD...
WASH ME
Your car has seven seats, twelve cup holders, three car seats and a written plea for help.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

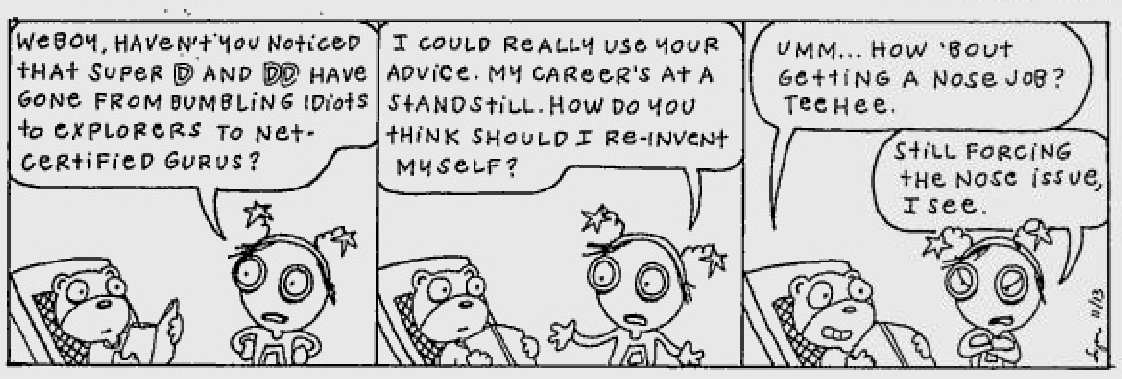
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL, DIDN'T YOUR OZZIE RAKE, BAG AND GET RID OF ALL THE LEAVES LAST YEAR!?!
YES.
muttscomics.com
... WHEN IS HE EVER GOING TO LEARN?
11-13

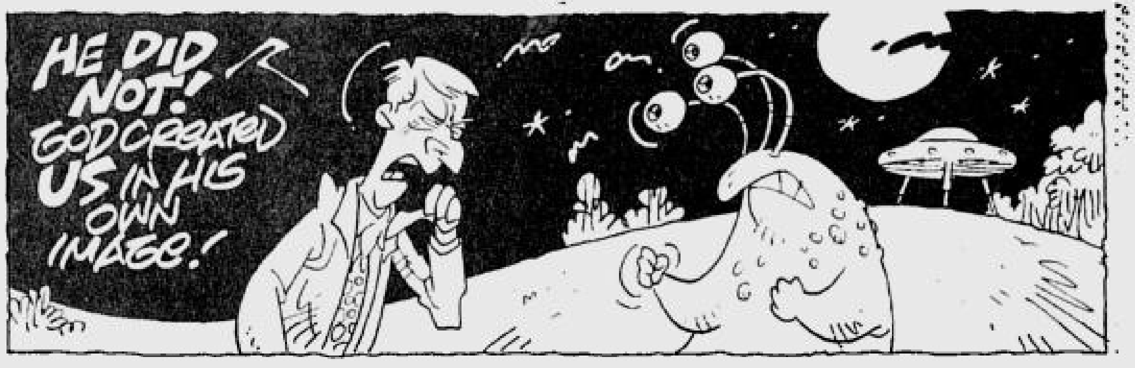
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WEBOY, HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED THAT SUPER D AND DD HAVE GONE FROM BUMBLING IDIOTS TO EXPLORERS TO NET-CERTIFIED GURUS?
I COULD REALLY USE YOUR ADVICE. MY CAREER'S AT A STANDSTILL. HOW DO YOU THINK SHOULD I RE-INVENT MYSELF?
UMM... HOW 'BOUT GETTING A NOSE JOB? TEEHEE.
STILL FORCING THE NOSE ISSUE, I SEE.
11/13

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HE DID NOT! GOD CREATED US IN HIS OWN IMAGE!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're knowledgeable and well-informed. Because you are involved in all walks of life, you keep abreast of things. You are interested in everything. You are a realist and passionate about your point of view, which is why you never hesitate to express yourself loudly and clearly. Exciting choices await you in the year ahead. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Joe Mantegna, actor; Whoopi Goldberg, actress/comedienne; Christopher Noth, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Yesterday's excitable energy now turns into focused, serious effort. Apply yourself to making long-term improvements to where you live today.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be open to advice from a friend today, especially someone older or more experienced than you. Don't feel competitive or defensive; just feel grateful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You can make wonderful headway in your job today. You have the patience and willingness to do difficult work.others notice your diligent, hardworking attitude. (Bonus!)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day for intellectual study. Your mind is willing to pay attention to detail. You are simply satisfied to meet the demands of the day.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Bite the bullet with respect to debt and obligations to others. (Your first loss is your cheapest loss.) Pay off whatever you can. You don't want to have to keep looking over your shoulder.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You are willing to throw your efforts in with those of others. You want to help. You're not looking for glory; you simply want productive results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You are like a steamroller at work today! You're relentless, steady and productive. You're not looking for rewards—you just want to get the job done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You quietly accept responsibilities with children today. It's easy to put your own wants and needs aside. You see it's not about ego—it's about addressing what is right in front of you.

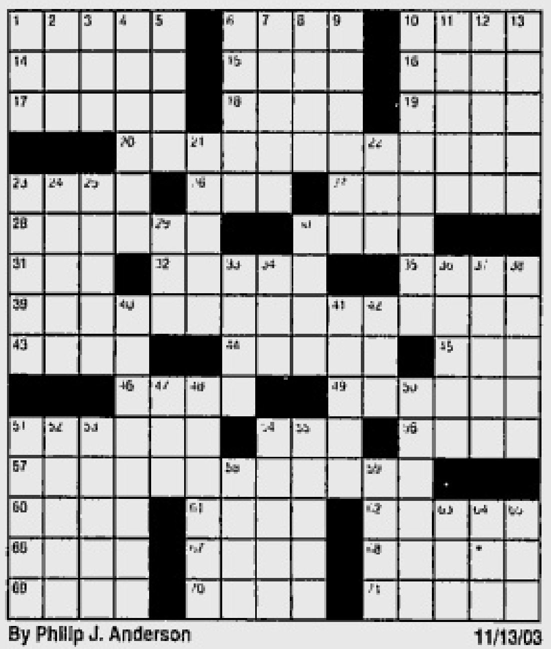
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Someone is willing to help you do something at home today. By all means, accept this assistance. Not only does it help you, but you offer someone else a chance to be generous.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Talk to someone close to you about your long-term goals. This is the perfect day to carefully define what you want to achieve.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're willing to spend money on something that will last a long time. Repairs and renovations are possible now. You're asking yourself, "How useful is this?"

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Those of you involved in professional sports can burn a lot of energy today! You're able to go, go, go. This same persistence can be expressed with children, show business and in the hospitality industry.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
11/13/03

ACROSS
1 Initial
6 Partner of Mary and Peter
10 Obligation
14 Run off to wed
15 Writer Buchanan
16 __ avis
17 __ Dame
18 Abu Dhabi ruler
19 Saroyan's "My Name Is __"
20 Start of a Kathy Norris quote
23 Coup d'__
26 FDR follower
27 Be nervously irresolute
28 Bridge error
30 Creedence Clearwater Revival hit
31 Bank pymt.
32 Rio de la __
35 Plane-crash investigation grp.
39 Part 2 of quote
43 Writer Seton
44 Forest space
45 Bandleader Winding
46 Actress Theda
49 Formed whirlpools
51 Discerning
54 Health resort
56 Archipelago member
57 End of quote
60 So long!
61 Hebrew month
62 Satchel Paige's given name
66 Part of QED
67 Hardens
68 Fright
69 Russo of "Tin Cup"
70 Copse member
71 Preminger and Graham

DOWN
1 Boggy lowland
2 Worldwide workers' grp.
3 Balderdash!
4 Elfin person
5 Adolescent
6 Chick calls
7 Confess
8 BTU part
9 City on the Rio Grande
10 Riding a wake
11 Terra firma
12 Astronomer Tycho
13 More docile
21 Knickknack spot
22 Resembling: suff.
23 Author Jong
24 Mortise mate
25 Unable to sit still
29 Govt. publishing grp.
30 Volcanic flow
33 Pond scum
34 Up to, briefly
36 Maori figurines
37 Writer Madame de __
38 Back of a 45
40 Condense and list
41 Standard of perfection
42 Beatty or Rorem
47 Ocean off Mass.
48 Meal
50 Straightforward
51 Fall flower
52 Extend a look
53 Saturn satellite
54 Outpouring
55 Handbag
58 Polish river
59 To boot
63 Backstabber
64 Spanish gold
65 Absolutely!

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	R	P	■	C	A	R	L	A	■	O	M	A	R
A	L	O	E	■	O	D	I	U	M	■	R	A	R	E
C	O	M	P	U	L	S	O	R	Y	■	O	N	C	E
T	U	P	E	L	O	■	T	E	R	R	■	D	O	D
I	D	S	■	T	R	A	■	R	A	I	S	A	■	■
■	■	■	U	R	I	S	■	S	Y	M	P	T	O	M
P	E	N	N	A	N	T	S	■	■	E	L	O	P	E
A	W	E	S	■	G	R	A	S	P	■	E	R	I	E
L	E	C	A	H	■	■	N	I	E	M	E	Y	E	R
P	R	E	F	E	C	T	■	A	N	O	N	■	■	■
■	■	S	E	N	O	R	■	M	L	I	■	S	T	A
M	A	S	■	T	H	E	E	■	I	R	E	N	E	S
I	R	A	N	■	O	B	L	I	G	A	T	O	R	Y
L	I	R	E	■	S	L	O	T	H	■	A	R	N	E
K	A	Y	E	■	T	E	N	E	T	■	L	E	S	T

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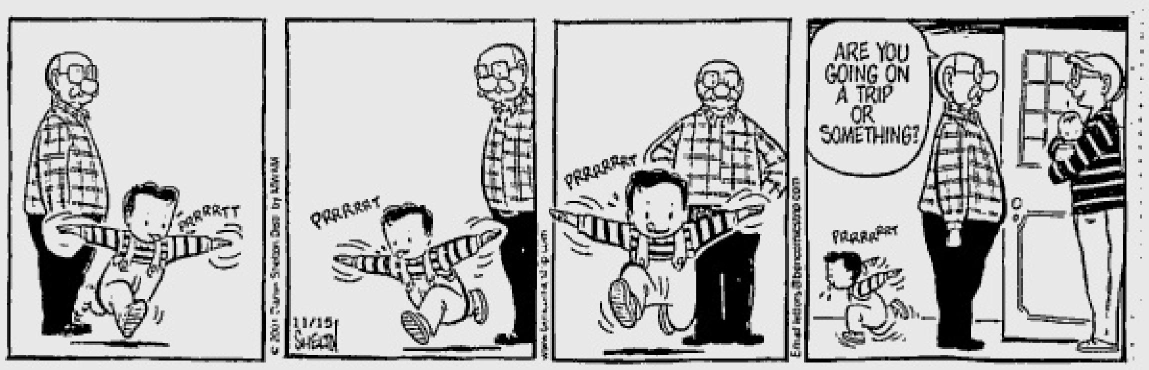
11/13/03

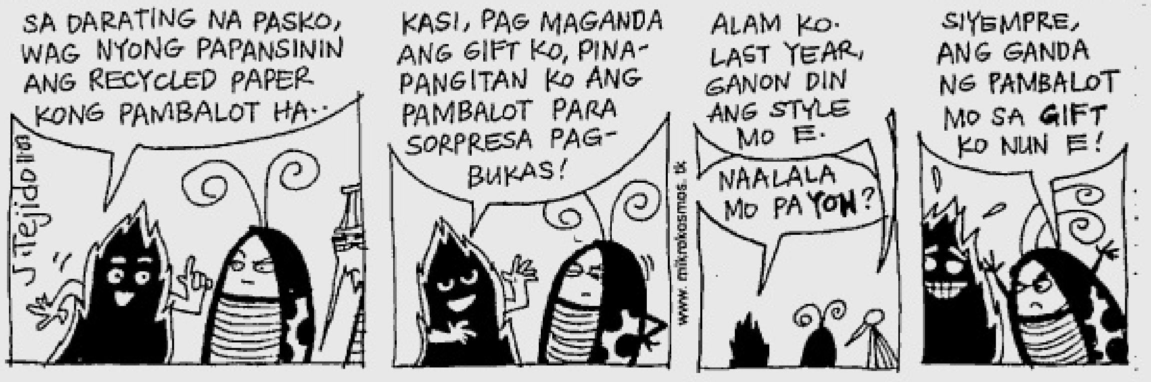
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


PRRRRTT
PRRRRRT
11/15
SHELTON
PRRRRRRT
PRRRRRRT
ARE YOU GOING ON A TRIP OR SOMETHING?

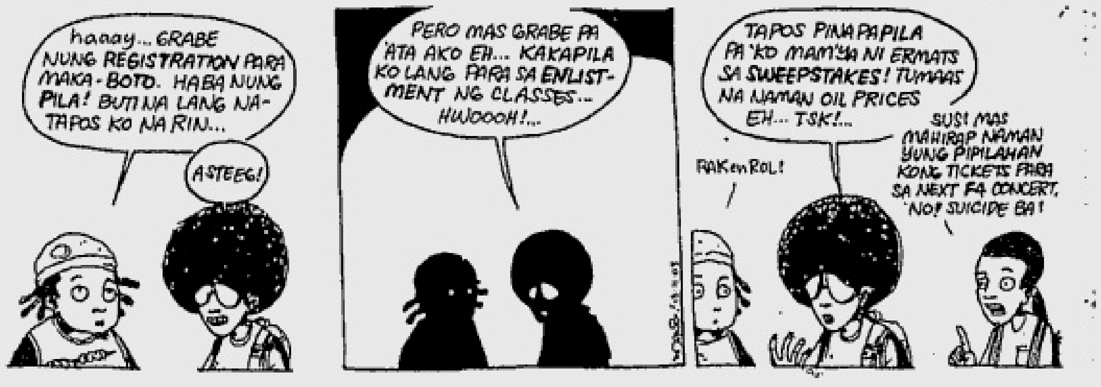
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SA DARATING NA PASKO, WAG NYONG PAPANSININ ANG RECYCLED PAPER KONG PAMBALOT HA...
J. Tejido 11-03
KASI, PAG MAGANDA ANG GIFT KO, PINA-PANGITAN KO ANG PAMBALOT PARA SORPRESA PAG-BUKAS!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
ALAM KO. LAST YEAR, GANON DIN ANG STYLE MO E.
NAALALA MO PA YON?
SIYEMPRE, ANG GANDA NG PAMBALOT MO SA GIFT KO NUN E!

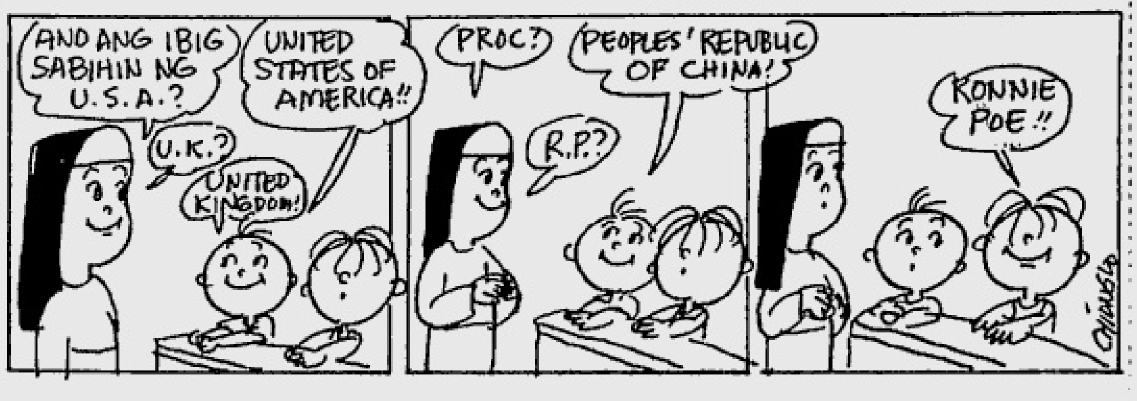
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


haaay... GRABE NUNG REGISTRATION PARA MAKA-BOTO. HABA NUNG PILA! BUTI NA LANG NA-TAPOS KO NA RIN...
ASTEEG!
PERO MAS GRABE PA 'ATA AKO EH... KAKAPILA KO LANG PARA SA ENLISTMENT NG CLASSES... HWOOOH!...
TAPOS PINAPAPILA PA 'KO MAM'YA NI ERMATS SA SWEEPSTAKES! TUMAAS NA NAMAN OIL PRICES EH... TSK!...
RAKenROL!
SUS! MAS MAHIRAP NAMAN YUNG PIPILAHAN KONG TICKETS PARA SA NEXT F4 CONCERT. 'NO! SUICIDE BA!

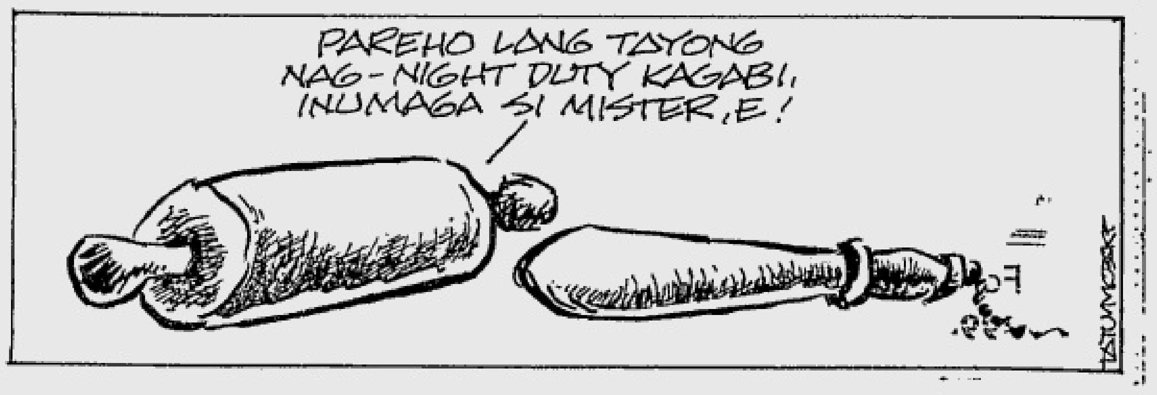
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANO ANG IBIG SABIHIN NG U.S.A.?
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!!
U.K.?
UNITED KINGDOM!
PROC?
PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA!
R.P.?
KONNIE POE!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PAREHO LANG TAYONG NAG-NIGHT DUTY KAGABI, INUMAGA SI MISTER, E!
TATUMCBKT

Tours, Leisure & Chow

cmadamba@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 209 and 238

Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Arias Espinosa, Editor

Austrian chef whips up wild meals at The Tivoli

THE TIVOLI, Mandarin Oriental's premier restaurant noted for its innovative cuisine and food and wine events, presents another rare gastronomic adventure as it offers Austrian Wild Game cuisine from Nov. 10 to 23, with the support of Swiss International Airlines.

Held for the fourth time in collaboration with Austrian guest chef Hans Tavolato, The Tivoli's Wild Game promotion showcases the chef's original recipes featuring bounties from Europe's hunting season such as venison, pheasant, partridge, wild boar, wild duck and mutton, in succulent meal preparations offered at lunch and dinner. "These elusive prey which feed mostly on berries and mushrooms are hunted from the thick woods behind my restaurant in Austria," says the seasoned hunter and chef who owns Gasthaus Zaun Muller, a restaurant made famous by Tavolato's creative wild game gustatory delights. "Wild game delicacies are healthy because they are low in fat and high in protein," adds Tavolato, who has conducted numerous lectures and seminars in various countries on wild game cuisine. Tavolato is also the owner and proprietor of the brand name "Tavos Wildbret", makers of popular processed meat products such as gourmet hams, sausages, terrines, sauces and spices.

Among the culinary masterpieces featured in The Tivoli's wild game cuisine are: For appetizers—Carpaccio of deer with chanterelles, Venison ham with cranberry cream, and Salad of partridge breast on garden greens. And for the main course—Pink roasted venison shank with napkin dumpling and braised red cabbage, Wild boar cutlet set on maple sauce with fried polenta and Brussel sprouts, Hazel crusted medallions of deer saddle with mashed potatoes and red cabbage, and many others. A selection of wines from Austria and the southwest region of France completes this culinary treat.

Wild Game enthusiasts can also earmark Nov. 21 for a gourmet dinner at The Tivoli priced at P2,400++ inclusive of a glass of wine for every course.

For inquiries and reservations, call 750 8888 extension 2433.

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts
27th Floor, Trident Towers, 312 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City 1200
Tel. (02) 889-2765/ fax (02) 889-4396
www.barcelo-asia.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

ASTORIA PLAZA
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700/fax (074) 446-0704

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18 / Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
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Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Royal Mandaya Hotel
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Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

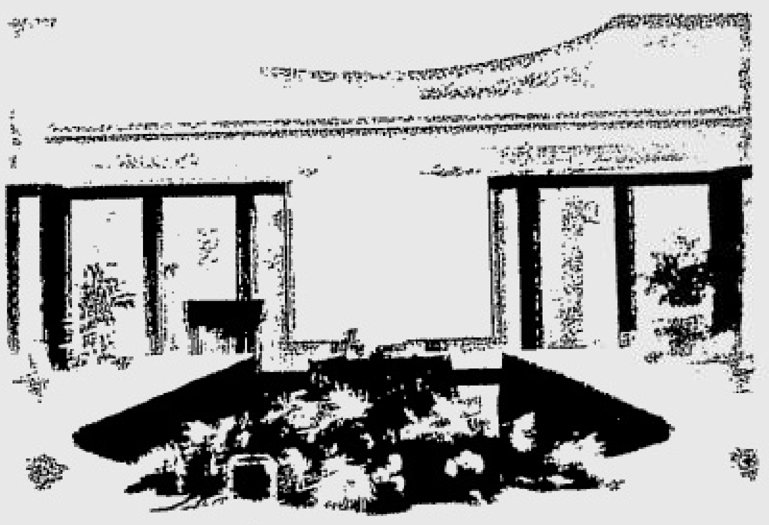
Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9965 to 72/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/Fax. (046) 413-1225

For Feedback and inquiries, call 899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209

The Bellevue modern facilities for businessmen on the go



ALABANG is one of those busy places where business deals are sealed with handshakes and a round of golf, and where corporate travellers are aplenty. Moving at a frenetic pace, Alabang's hectic workers are buzzing like bees in suits and ties.

The Bellevue Hotel, the first and only business hotel south of Metro Manila, is made to meet the demands and needs of the area's business people. Aside from its elegance, efficient service, friendly staff, convenient location and superb food, the hotel offers modern facilities for the corporate individual on-the-go.

The hotel boasts of four function rooms and one main ballroom for briefings or brainstormings, each is generously equipped with top-rate furnishings and presentation tools. Three private offices and three workstations are also available, each outfitted with the latest Internet technology by Cisco, making The Bellevue the first and only hotel installed with this state-of-the-art system. Furthermore, the hotel has its own secretarial service that can handle requirements like typing, letter writing and faxing 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As The Bellevue is geared to meet the urgent needs of traveling businessmen, it is also equipped with amenities for rest and relaxation. The hotel has the Café D' Asie Asian Specialty Restaurant open for breakfast, lunch, dinner and light snacks. There is also the lively 20/20 entertainment center for live music, cocktails or a game of billiards. In addition, an infinity pool with a poolside restaurant, a fully equipped gym and health spa and 222 deluxe and suite rooms are sure to give guests the ultimate experience in distinctive hotel living. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

New hotel rises in Baguio

EXPERIENCE the grandeur of Baguio City with the opening of its newest hotel to accommodate your traveling needs. Whether business or pleasure, Starwood Hotel (sister company of Baguio's City Travel Hotel), strategically located along Kisad Road, corner Marcos Highway and the historic Kennon Road, offers 57 ornate rooms at affordable prices. The fully carpeted flooring, hot and cold showers, cable television and telephone line, coupled with seasoned staff allows you to live in class and elegance.

Most sought-after Starwood Suites are also each equipped with a bathtub. Deluxe rooms are just perfect for guests not to miss home. Be impressed with our family suites and Bayanihan rooms, the only one of its kind in Baguio suited for individual travelers to a group of eight (max).

Promotional rates are P250 per pax (Bayanihan rooms), P1,000 (deluxe rooms), P 1,500 (Starwood Suite) and P 2,500 (Family Suite). Rates may vary during weekends, holidays and peak seasons. Added amenities include the Maki tea house at the ground floor and function hall for corporate meetings and seminars. So when in Baguio, stay at Starwood Hotel, supporter of WOW Philippines, and go beyond the usual. For reservations and inquiries, call (074) 446-5830 to 32 or fax (074) 446-5833.

Cafe Astoria presents violinist Jay Cayuca and comic Wilson Go

CAYUCA

GO

MAKE Fridays and Saturdays red-letter days at the Café Astoria. Wine and dine to the tantalizing music of violinist Jay Cayuca starting at 8:30 p.m. on Fridays and laugh at the ribtickling antics of ace comedian Wilson Go starting at 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays for the whole month of November.

Poet of the violin Jay Cayuca's stellar performances are marked with much hip-swaying, foot-stomping, skips and hops. Combined with brooding looks, Cayuca is a noticeable and riveting figure onstage as he draws out music from a locally made acoustic violin crafted by Manila Chamber Orchestra cellist Amador Tamayo.

Wilson Go is an accomplished entertainer, actor, singer and talent who has starred in various comedy movies and TV programs. He has also performed live to SRO crowds both here and abroad.

The Café Astoria is located at the ground floor of the Astoria Plaza at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. Managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels & Resorts, Astoria may be reached for reservations and inquiries at 687-1111.

Waterfront wins frontliners of the year

WATERFRONT Hotels and Casinos bagged two awards for the Front Liner of the Year title in the Department of Tourism and the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation's Kalakbay Awards 2003.

The hotel chain's two entries, waiters Danny Barrientos of Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino and Julito Erana of Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino, both stand out in job performance, character and exemplary deeds. The principles of criteria include work attitude, human relations, punctuality and attendance, demonstrations of courage, integrity, dedication and initiative in his work. The qualifications were assessed through performance ratings, guest commendations and documented information appraised and signed by the company's Human Resources Department.

Barrientos, a waiter at WCCHC's Café Fortuna, has been employed in Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino for five years. Colleagues attest that Barrientos carries out exceptional work performance by being positive, punctual, and courteous. He is known to always comply with rules and regulations and is considered an excellent team player in his department.

Julito Erana, a waiter at WAHC's Café Uno, has been employed in Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino since 1998. Erana has been rewarded with numerous commendation letters, both from the company and from satisfied guests. He has garnered five nominations for Star of the Quarter since he started working for the hotel. He finally won the title in 2002.

Waterfront Hotels and Casinos aim to be the leader in the tourism industry committed to provide total customer satisfaction through warm, Filipino hospitality. Positioning itself as a premier hotel chain that cares for the finer details in customer relation, Waterfront Hotels and Casinos' central tenet is to continually empower its employees through trainings and programs. The Hotel does this not only to obtain efficient and better service delivery but also to contribute to employees' individual and career growth.

Bocarinos beef promo

THE NEW World Renaissance Hotel's stylish and modern restaurant Bocarinos offers meat lovers "Beef X 5", a creatively delicious way to promote beef via different mouth-watering and hearty preparations for lunch and dinner. Conceptualized by the Renaissance Hotel Chain's innovative culinary experts in the U.S., "Beef X 5" runs until Jan. 4, 2004. "Beef X 5" offers five tempting ways to enjoy the world's most sought after food. Few can resist the delicious flavors of Asian Beef Satay, Japanese Miso Glazed Short Ribs, Texas Barbecued Brisket, Argentinian Roast Sirloin, or French Hangar Steak with Frites. Bocarinos is open Mondays to Fridays, 11:30 to 2 p.m. and 6 to 10 p.m. On Saturdays, it is open from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information, call 811-6888 extension 3318.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Prepare for the coming of Limp Bizkit!

SHOW TIME

LIMP Bizkit, the head-banging, heart-thumping, blood pressure-boosting live experience, explodes in Manila with the "Limp Bizkit Live in Manila" concert on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the Ultra Open Field.

The Limp Bizkit concert is part of the groundbreaking "Summer Sanitarium World Tour" that has been setting the United States on fire.

"If you're scared of revolution, you'd better run for shelter," says Fred Durst, charismatic front man for Limp Bizkit. "We plan to have a blast and connect with the source of being again. That source is the energy that we feed off at our live shows ... When Lethal, Mike, John and Jam get together, it just reeks of pure, raw emotional havoc.

"It's gonna be sick! Prepare," he adds.

In the "Summer Sanitarium World Tour," Limp Bizkit performs in Bali, Bangkok and Singapore before flying to Manila. After their Philippine show, Limp Bizkit is also set to perform in Seoul and Singapore.

Tickets are now available at all SM TicketNet outlets: premiere, P1,650; de luxe, P950; and bleachers, P550.

For inquiries, call TicketNet, 911-5555.

After the success of their monster hit albums, the breakthrough "Significant Other" and the follow-up "Chocolate Starfish and the Hotdog Flavored Water" which have sold more than 30 million copies worldwide, Limp Bizkit is back with a vengeance with "Results May Vary," just released across the planet.

The album's latest single, "Eat You Alive," is on the MTV Asia hit list.

The show is presented by underground style label Tribal Streetwar in cooperation with Magic 89.9 dwTM, 103.5 K-Lite, 99.5 RT, RX 93.1, NU 107 and Joey 92.3.

RUN! (From left) Mike Smith, Fred Durst, Sam Rivers, John Otto and DJ Lethal

Periodic barber, scientifical way and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: What safety tips can you share with our viewers about riding in a motorcycle?

Guest: First and last, don't forget to wear helmet. You need it to protect you if you fall off your head!

(That's quite a trick!)

***

Host: What can you say about the other channel's claim that some of its shows are now topping the ratings?

Guest: Actually, we all know it's just wishful thinking. We all know *naman* that our TV shows, *tumatabo talaga sa takilya*!

(*May takilya pala sa* TV...)

***

Host: How do you get inspired to write your songs? What's your secret?

Guest: Actually, there's no secret. I get inspiration just sitting for observation!

(Ah, so!)

***

Host: What can we do to finally solve the huge drug problem?

Guest: We just have to be vigilant, we have to do our worst!

(Like what you're doing now?)

***

Host: What about marijuana? Has the problem been solved?

Guest: Not yet, it keeps coming back. When we aren't looking, marijuana plants are still being planted in the upland mountains, hidden amidst of huge stones!

(*Ay*, amidst of huge stones!)

***

Host: Do you think **Arnold Schwarzenegger** can win as governor of California?

Filipino-American: I hope Arnold became governor, then I have friend a governor!

(Duh!)

***

Host: Filipinos are doing well abroad.

Co-host: Oh, yes, I meet some of them when I'm in the States.

Host: For example, did you know that a Filipino is the UN head's periodic barber?

(What in the world is a periodic barber?!)

***

Host: Our guest tonight is a young captain in the Army.

Guest: Good evening!

Host: Before we discuss the recent events involving the military, can we first get to know you better, sir?

Guest: Ok.

Host: First of all, sir, are you married, single, widow?

(No, just dumbfounded!)

***

Host: Some people criticize you for resorting too much to plastic surgery. What do you want to tell them?

Guest: Well, it's not true. *Wala naman akong niretoke sa aking katawan—pinabilis ko lang ang pagtanggal ng taba sa katawan ko*, in a scientifical way!

(*Ay*, in a scientifical way!)

Final episodes

THIS week, Plaza Miranda will screen on jumbotron television the final episodes of the Channel 2 telenovelas, "Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay" and "Darating ang Umaga."

This is ABS-CBN's response to requests from viewers for the network to find a way to enable commuters to watch the shows while they're waiting for their ride home.

On "Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay," the action peaks as the stage is set for the so-called trial of the century, in which Lorrea takes the stand despite the fact that she isn't the real Red Butterfly.

And, on "Darating ang Umaga," the long-awaited prophecy may finally be fulfilled as the medallion comes close to becoming whole. Is it choice or chance that will determine the protagonists' destiny?

The two drama serials end on Nov. 14.

A capella competition

PHILIPPINE ambassador to the Contemporary A Capella Society (Casa), **Oscar Pantaleon Jr.**, will be a judge in the first Asian Championship of Collegiate A Capella (ACCA) in Taipei, Taiwan on Nov. 13. The winner of the competition will represent Asia in the international championship, which will be held at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York City next April.

Liezel should come home with Binoe

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

AFTER **Liezel Sicangco's** confession about her wanting out from her marriage with **Robin Padilla**, here comes Binoe pleading on nationwide television for another chance.

He may be sincere, but until when? Liezel deserves more than something that is always subject to change until prior notice. He vows to cut short his contract with ABS-CBN so he can make up for lost time with Liezel and their kids in Australia. But eventually he has to come back, of course, to earn a living here to support his family, unless he would opt for a quiet life in Australia. What would he do in Australia, though?

Perhaps Liezel would feel a little bit more secure if she stayed put here in Manila with Binoe. Although proximity is no guarantee of fidelity, it's better to be closer to your partner and his "prey." Absence does make the heart grow fonder—sometimes for another heart.

Monsour marrying

I KNOW many girls will start mourning because a true-to-life "hero" (with the credentials and the body to show for it) will soon get hitched—my "brother" **Monsour del Rosario**.

I know how Mon gives his all when he is in love (it's the Ilonggo in him), so I'm extremely happy that he finally found his perfect match. He promised to let me in on the details of his "*nakakakilig*" marriage proposal. Now he's all the more inspired with his work, especially for the Milo Little Olympics (Nov. 23-24).

Unlike most action stars who sire children recklessly here and there, Mon would rather groom young kids to be future taekwando champs like him. His TV ad for the SEA Games heroes with Mike Arroyo is out, and so is the Milo "little Monsour" ad. Soon enough, Mon can put into practice his expertise with kids when fatherhood comes next in line for him after his much-awaited marriage.

Sadness and joy

I WAS interviewed by *Tita* **Boots Anson-Roa** on her radio program "Boots Talk" (dzMM) about grief management since I'm still trying to come to terms with losing my mom. I was enlightened by our talk and I would like to share some tips with you in case you are going through the same dilemma as I am.

For one, pain has no timetable. The emotional tug of war between sadness and joy goes on. But allow yourself to feel every emotion to its fullest extent. Don't rush anything. Before you know it, you will reach a point when you will no longer feel alone even when you hear the silence.

Dish of fun

SPEAKING of coping, being around friends is the best therapy of all. And if there's one friend I truly enjoy hanging out with, it's **Philip Cu-unjieng** of Dish - Rockwell, where there's something for everybody and they really know how to dish out fun. Clean wholesome fun.

Check out **Jimmy Bondoc** and **Mocha** tonight, and **Jay R** and South Border tomorrow at my official hangout in Makati, Dish.

Stars with amnesia

I HAD a long and engaging talk with some well-respected talent managers and they share the same sentiments about big stars who tend to forget how it all began for them in show biz. I call it a severe case of amnesia of the stars. As one of the managers lamented (after one of his wards, a sexy

LIEZEL/A25

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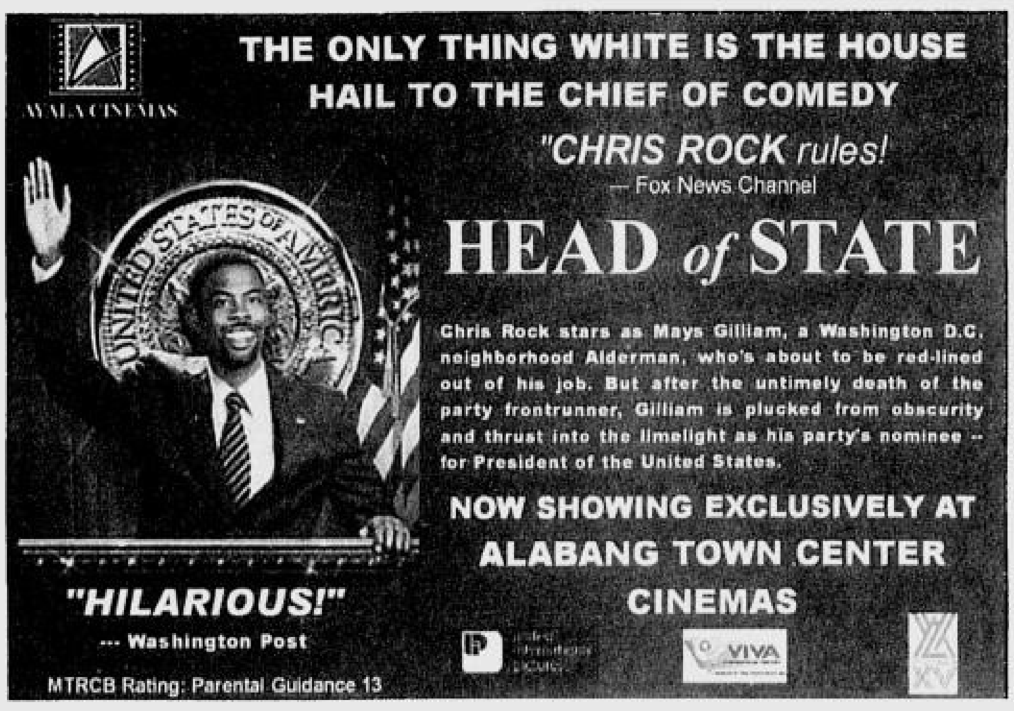

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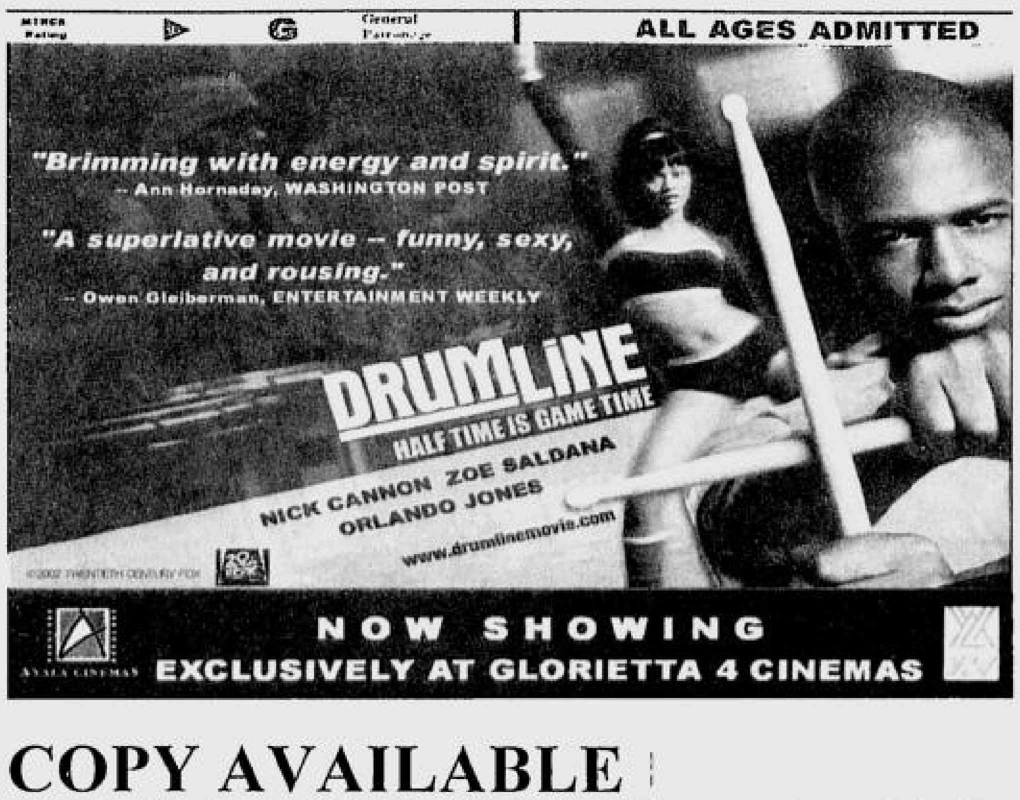
From award winning director Mira Nair (Salaam, Bombay, Mississippi Masala, The Perez Family, & Kama Sutra: A Tale Love), Monsoon Wedding is a fun, heartwarming tribute to family that Carey Rickey of the Philadelphia Inquirer calls "a banquet of heart."
Monsoon Wedding
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
NOKIA INQUIRER



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Liezel should come home with Binoe

From page A24

star, bolted out of his stable feigning innocence about the duration of her contract), "You dress them up, do an all-out publicity blitz for them and train them, but once they make it big, they suddenly leave you. Instead of brooding over it, I would rather build up a new talent who will hopefully not turn her/his back on me no matter what."

Another talent manager agreed. Referring to a male image model whom he plucked out of anonymity, the manager said, "What else is new? I even shouldered the rent and other expenses of this model. And now that he's making waves he doesn't even give me due credit. I'm not after the money. Just acknowledgement."

Oh well. As my mom would always tell me, be kind to the people you meet on the way up because they are also the same people you will meet on your way down.

Personal

DAMO gid na salamat to my coolest *amigo* **Luke Mejares** for singing at my mom's 40th day at such short notice. My mom is a Bisaya (hence the screen name Inday), at heart just like Luke, so I'm sure she was all smiles when Luke serenaded her that night. *Hidlaw kami sa imo*, 'Ma!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Ali 4	MATRIX REVOLUTION
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CINEMA-2	LIBERATEDI
CINEMA-3	INNER SENSES
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-6	SIYA'Y NAGDADALAGA
CINEMA-7	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-8	THE PHONE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATIRX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DARK BLUE
CINEMA-12	WRONG TURN
CINEMA-14	MAPANUKSO
CINEMA-15	MY FIRST ROMANCE
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(LAS PINAS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
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CINEMA-2	LIBERATED
CINEMA-4	FREAKY FRIDAY
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MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50	WRONG TURN R18 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

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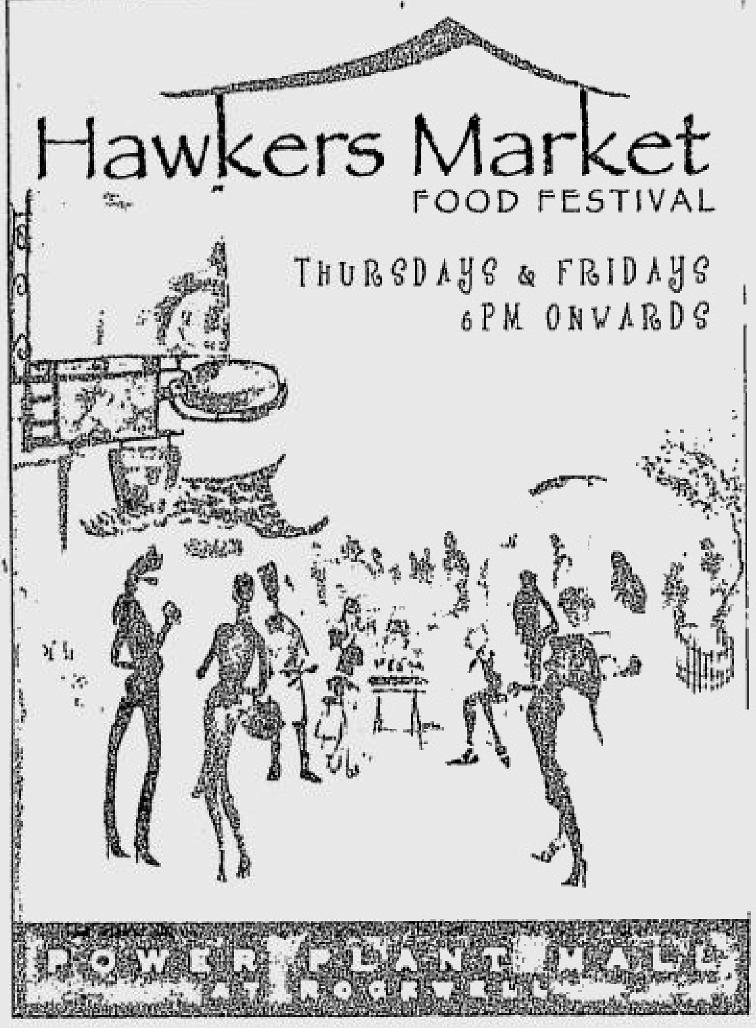

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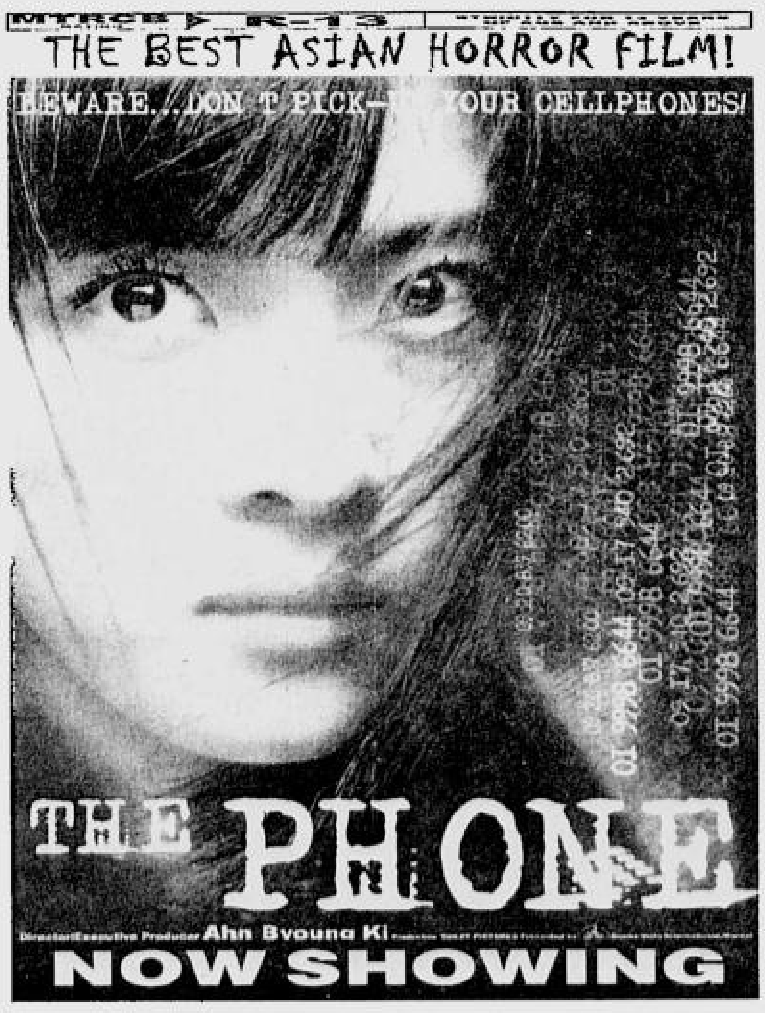
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2 DARK BLUE	2 DARK BLUE	2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 12 15 3 00 5 45 8 30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 2 1 45, 4 35, 10 15	2 DARK BLUE
3 THE WISHER	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 12 45 3 30 6 15 9 00	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 3 2 20, 5 10, 10 50	3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	4 DRUMLINE		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 1 50 4 15 6 40 9 05, 11 30	4 HEAD OF STATE
	5 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN		GUARANTEED SEATS MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 5 3 00, 5 50, 8 40, 11 30	5 WRONG TURN
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5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	DARK BLUE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	WRONG TURN
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	WISHER
8	MY FIRST ROMANCE
9	MAPANUKSO
10	LIBERATED

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1	RESERVE
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1	WRONG TURN
2	TEMPTING HEART
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3	TEMPTING HEART
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5	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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2	LIBERATED
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Gotesco City
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1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	LIBERATED
6	MAPANUKSO
7 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 (SDDS)	DARK BLUE
9 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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2	RESERVE

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1	LIBERATED
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	MAPANUKSO
4 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5	DARK BLUE
6 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 (DTS)	WRONG TURN
8	TEMPTING HEART
9	THE RUNDOWN

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2 (SDDS)	MY FIRST ROMANCE
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4 (DOLBY)	IDENTITY
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2	MAPANUKSO
3	LIBERATED
4	WRONG TURN

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1 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	MAPANUKSO
3	TEPTING HEART
4	WRONG TURN
5	LIBERATED

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2	RESERVE

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2	MAPANUKSO

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2	LIBERATED
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DARK BLUE
4 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6	MAPANUKSO
7	WRONG TURN

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1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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1	LIBERATED
2	UNDERWORLD
3 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 (DTS)	UNDERWORLD
3 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	IDENTITY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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2 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 (DTS)	UNDERWORLD
4	IDENTITY

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1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	IDENTITY
3	MY FIRST ROMANCE

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2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
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1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

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1	THE RUNDOWN
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	RESERVE

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1	UNDERWORLD
2	UP TOWN GIRL
3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	IDENTITY

Jade Cinema
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1 (DOLBY EX)	IDENTITY
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS ES)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
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2	UP TOWN GIRL
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Robin can't leave show, says ABS

He can go on leave for a few weeks, says network

By Marinel R. Cruz

ABS-CBN yesterday said it did not accept the resignation of actor Robin Padilla from the network's telenovela "Basta't Kasama Kita," just three days after he announced he was leaving the show to be with his wife and four children in Queensland, Australia.

The network instead allowed Robin to go on leave for several weeks and arranged for him to shoot several episodes of the show in advance. Robin, his manager Betchay Vidanes and the network agreed on this in a meeting yesterday morning.

Last Sunday on "The Buzz" on ABS-CBN, Robin read a letter in Filipino, addressed to his fans and loved ones, saying he was leaving the show next month after his wife Liezel Sycangco said she wanted to end her 17-year marriage to Robin because there was another woman, whom she did not identify. Liezel made her revelation in a phone interview on GMA 7's "Star Talk" last Saturday.

"I only have one wife," Robin said last Sunday. "I cannot live without her. I couldn't believe that someone whom I consider very dear to me spread this rumor. We are one happy family. I beg you, please keep us whole." He did not say who spread the "rumor."

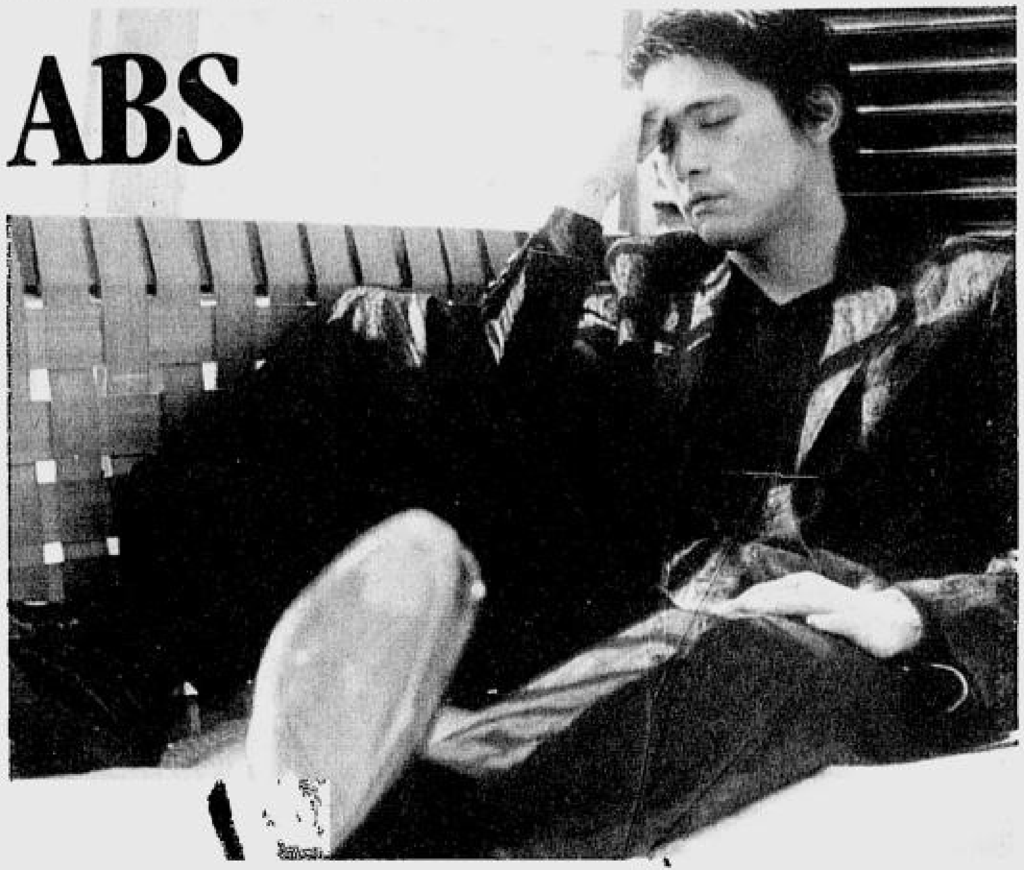
Liezel and their four children Roselle Elizabeth, 12, Kylie Nicole, 10, Sherileen Zel, 9 and Robinhood Fernando, 3, have been living in Australia for three years now. Robin said he and Liezel decided it would be best for the kids to grow up away from the intrigues of show business.

Yesterday, Vidanes told INQUIRER Entertainment, "We reviewed his contract with the network and explained to him that he cannot resign from the series. We agreed that he would go on a vacation in Australia and allowed him to do advance tapings for the show."

She said Robin would immediately return to complete his contract, which is set to expire in May 2004.

In "Basta't Kasama Kita," Robin co-stars with Judy Ann Santos. Earlier this week, talk said Judy Ann was Robin's other woman and was pregnant with his baby. Judy Ann's manager Alfie Lorenzo denied this.

Judy Ann is flying to the US on Nov. 19, to perform in a series of shows. "I'm sure people would say Juday (the actress' nickname) had an abortion that's why she went to the States," said Alfie.



DEAR RUMOR-MONGER. Padilla says someone close to him is spreading gossip

Mariah made it through the rain and she's coming

"CHARMBRACELET." Carey learns how to be more careful and to take care of herself.

HER designer stiletto heels are ready to step on Manila soil. Mariah Carey is definitely coming to Manila for a one-night-only concert in the "Mariah Carey Charmbracelet World Tour 2003" on Nov. 16 at the Fort open field.

Gates will open as early as 3 p.m. and the show will start promptly at 8 p.m.

The concert producer, East West Global Entertainment, said the concert venue is 60,000 square meters of an open, trimmed-grass field. There will be eight entrances to facilitate the entry of viewers.

Mariah has become the best-selling female singer of all time, with 15 No. 1 singles and two Grammy Awards. She is also the only artist to top the charts in each year of the 1990s. And with "Heartbreaker," she overtook the Beatles as the artist with the highest number of weeks spent at the top of Billboard's Hot 100 Singles chart.

In May 2002, Mariah signed an exclusive recording contract with the Universal Music Group's Island Records. She also has formed her own label, MonarC Music.

MonarC Music's first release is Mariah's latest studio album set, "Charmbracelet," released in Manila by Universal Music Philippines. The album features Mariah writing and co-producing with such A-list names as Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis and Jermaine Dupri, among others.

Mariah's stunning voice, prolific songwriting and incredible versatility are fully evident on the first single, the sweeping epic ballad, "Through The Rain."

The second single from "Charmbracelet," "Boy (I Need You)," is a hip hop rap material featuring Cam'Ron.

For Mariah's Philippine tour, Universal Music Philippines has repackaged the "Charmbracelet: CD to contain four new tracks: "There Goes My Heart," "I Know What You Want" with Busta Rymes featuring the Flipmode Squad, "Got a Thing for You" with Da Brat featuring Elephant Man, and "The One (So So Def Remix)" with Bone Crusher.

In a recent interview, Mariah spoke about being with her fans again, her songs and her much-publicized problems last year.

How has it been to get out there and be close to your fans again?

It was a really great experience for me to get out there and be close to my fans again and play them some songs from this new album ("Charmbracelet"), and just see the reaction.

What were you going through personally last year?

We all go through difficult times in our lives. I mean, just because I'm a public person, all the things that I went through were very dramatized and overly sensationalized. But you know, I don't want to gloss over it and act like it wasn't a big deal, because just the fact that I worked myself so hard and exhausted myself is a big deal.

What I think it is about is learning how to not do that and to be more careful and taking care of yourself. That's something that I would like to resonate from these lyrics and from this song. I hope people get that message.

How has writing this song helped you personally to overcome adversity?

Writing "Through the Rain" was a kind of therapeutic experience for me because it was personal yet it was also written to inspire others.

Tickets to Mariah's concert are available at Ticketworld in all National Bookstore outlets.

Mandy Moore's only full-length concert is at Big Dome

SHOW TIME

IT'S all systems go for "Mandy Moore's Manila Tour '03" on Nov. 20 at the Araneta Coliseum.

To clear up confusion over Moore's Manila itinerary, ALV Events International, the official producer of her concert at the Big Dome, makes it clear that it is the American pop star's first and only full-length major concert in the Philippines.

Since breaking into show biz years ago in the teen-pop explosion in Orlando, Florida that also spawned Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake, Moore has been the rare pop princess who values poise over perkiness. Hollywood is still shaking its head at the unexpected success of her 2002 weepie of a movie, "A Walk to Remember."

Moore has persistently tried to distinguish herself from her teen contemporaries, first by going brunette and now by covering Joni Mitchell. Her new album, "Coverage," released here by Sony Music Philippines, consists entirely of songs written by musicians who peaked long before Moore and her target audience were born. Included in the album are such baby boomer pieces as Cat Steven's "Moonshadow," Carly Simon's "Anticipation" and Elton John's "Mona Lisas & Mad Hatters," as well as a smattering of '80s alterna-rock: Joan Armatrading's "Drop the Pilot," XTC's "Senses Working Overtime."

MOORE, 19 and a sensation

Poised neatly between karaoke and tribute, "Coverage" succeeds, thanks to Moore's fine taste in songs and pleasingly game voice. Recording the album in a "superlax" manner at a converted garage in Minneapolis also helped give the singer a surprisingly much-needed boost of confidence.

In "Mandy Moore's Manila Tour '03," the 19-year-old pop sensation will sing her hits such as "I Wanna be With You," "Cry," "Only Hope," "Crush," "Someday We'll Know" and "Candy."

Her special guests include rising pop/R&B singer Jay-R and pop/R&B siren Arnee.

The ALV Events International production is presented by Smart Buddy Load, Smart Music Link and Petron XCS Plus, together with Penshoppe, Tommy Hilfiger Watches, and AMA Computer University.

Sponsors include Kotex, Ink for Less, No Curfew, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Mellow Touch 94.7, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star and Manila Bulletin. The official concert TV station is GMA 7 and the official music channel is Myx.

Free posters and album discounts are being given to the first 1,000 ticket buyers. Tickets are available at the Araneta Coliseum and all TicketNet outlets (911-5555).

24
PROFILE
DAVID PALMER / Dennis Haysbert
Isa ako sa mga kandidato sa
pagka-presidente ng Amerika.
At sa araw ng Presidential Primary,
may magtatangka sa buhay ko.
At may nagbabalak ding ibunyag
ang madilim na lihim ng pamilya ko.
Malapit mo na akong makasama
sa pinakamahabang araw
sa buhay mo.
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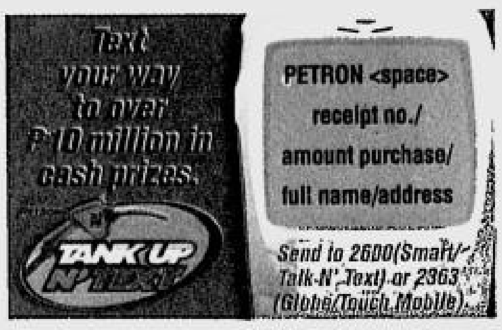
Text your way to over P10 million in cash prizes.
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PETRON <space> receipt no./ amount purchase/ full name/address
Send to 2600(Smart/ Talk-N'-Text) or 2363 (Globe/Touch Mobile).

Intel tax row with LGU worries gov't

By Michelle V. Remo

TRADE and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II has expressed concern over the tax dispute between Intel Technology Philippines Inc. and the local government of General Trias in Cavite as this could prompt the foreign investor to withdraw its huge investments and leave the country.

Roxas has called for the speedy resolution of the dispute and said the Department of Trade and Industry was now trying to facilitate a compromise between the two parties.

"The issue has to be resolved right away because what is at stake are billions of pesos in investments and thousands of jobs for our people," Roxas said.

Intel, a unit of the world's leading microprocessor chip manufacturer, has invested more than P1 billion in the Philippines and employs about 5,000 workers. It has also been the country's No. 1 exporter for the past five years.

The local government of General Trias in said it was going after Intel's P136.7 million worth of unpaid real property taxes, including penalties and other charges, covering the period 1998 to 2000.

It has also threatened to auction off pieces of property owned by Intel if the latter continued to refuse paying the taxes.

ROXAS

For its part, Intel said it was registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority and therefore enjoyed tax incentives, including exemption from the payment of real property tax.

It also cited an ordinance passed by the municipal government of General Trias exempting locators at the Gateway Business Park from the payment of local taxes for a period of four years from the start of commercial operation.

However, Peza said Intel was still liable for the tax because firms located at export processing zones that have availed themselves of income tax holidays were still required to pay the real property tax. It added that the Local Government Code should prevail over a municipal ordinance.

Roxas said he met recently with officials of Intel and representatives of the Cavite provincial government to try to thresh out a deal between the two. He added that the two parties have agreed to continue seeking a resolution to the tax dispute.

Mining firms press high court on legality dispute

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE CHAMBER of Mines has appealed to the Supreme Court to decide on the legality of the Philippine Mining Law to remove the uncertainty clouding the industry.

Incoming Chamber of Mines president Philip Romualdez said in a press conference yesterday that the mining industry had deteriorated over the past six years.

"For how long should the mining industry players wait?" Romualdez asked. "Local and foreign investors need this law to guide them on how to proceed with their projects."

Romualdez, who is also president of Benguet Corp., noted that the country had lost close to $24 billion in potential investments since local environment groups questioned the legality of the Mining Law before the high tribunal.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Horace Ramos said in the same forum that whether the Supreme Court thumbs down or approves the Mining Law, it would still send a positive signal to the mining industry and its potential investors.

"Any decision would end the stalemate we are currently into," Ramos said.

Romualdez said the mining industry has learned well from the "sins of the past", referring to the Marcopper mining incident that endangered the lives and environment in Mindoro.

"We condemned these lapses. The industry and the DENR have continued to address the Marcopper incident until now. But the industry as a whole needs to move on," he said.

Patrick Caoile, vice president of the Chamber of Mines, said in another interview that the mining industry contributed less than 10 percent to the country's export earnings as compared to 20-25 percent about 20 years ago.

"Even at its current state now, the mining industry still contributes $600 million to $650 million in revenues to the government, so imagine if we could push this a little bit further," said Caoile, who is also general manager and executive vice president of Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.

The Chamber of Mines, which groups local mining firms, and the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences are looking at a number projects to boost the local mining industry.

These ventures include the Tampacan mining project of Western Mining Corp., the Kingking copper-gold project of Benguet Mining, the Buyungan mine of Philex Mining, the Far Southeast copper mining project of Lepanto Consolidated Mining, and the Pujada and Broxpoint nickel mining project of Philippine Nickel Mining Corp.

These projects would place the Philippines at par with major metal and non-metal producing and exporting countries such as India and Africa.

BIR posts higher October collection

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue yesterday said collection in October reached P35.67 billion, exceeding by P1.73 billion or 5 percent its target of P33.94 billion for the month.

The strong performance of the BIR and the Bureau of Customs in October boosted the government's expectations that it met its P23-billion budget deficit target last month.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the government also spent within the ceiling of P70 billion for October.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said that for the first 10 months, the bureau raised P346.73 billion, or short by only P1.42 billion against its goal of P348.15 billion.

Parayno admitted that collection targets for November and December were substantial but said that the BIR "would do its best to meet the goals."

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo yesterday said that collections in October reached P9.25 billion or P191 million higher than the P9.06-billion goal and P1.02 billion more than the collection in the same period last year.

The agency collecting tax and tariffs on imports missed its target in August and September.

Parayno said that the BIR collection recovered in October from a huge shortfall in the previous month.

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INDICATORS

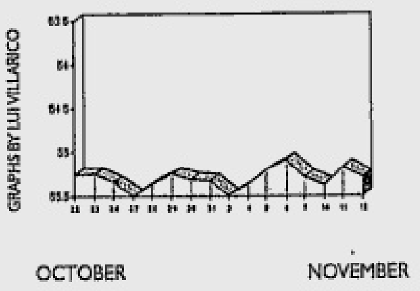
CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P55.28 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 12, 2003

Y108.68 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 12, 2003

GOLD: $386.50-387.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 12, 2003

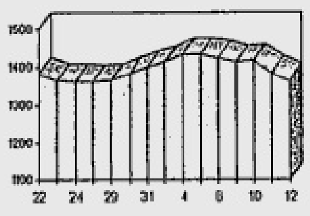


November 12, 2003

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.871080139	1.000000	55.181000
Japan	Yen	0.008019	0.009206	0.508000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.456098	1.671600	92.240600
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112453	0.129096	7.123600
Switzerland	Franc	0.635686	0.729767	40.269300
Canada	Dollar	0.663428	0.761615	42.026700
Singapore	Dollar	0.502469	0.576834	31.830300
Australia	Dollar	0.624654	0.717103	39.570500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.310618	2.652590	146.372600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.232288	0.266667	14.715000
Brunei	Dollar	0.501024	0.575175	31.738700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021848	0.025082	1.384000
UAE	Dirham	0.237184	0.272287	15.025100
Euro	Euro	1	1.148000	63.347800
Argentina	Peso	0.306719	0.352113	19.429900
Brazil	REAL	0.302354	0.347102	19.153400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134522	0.154431	8.521700
India	Rupee	0.019259	0.022109	1.220000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.229262	0.263193	14.523300
Mexico	New Peso	0.079609	0.091391	5.043000
New Zealand	Dollar	0.541649	0.621813	34.312300
Norway	Kroner	0.121867	0.139903	7.720000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015223	0.017476	0.964300
South Africa	Rand	0.125868	0.144496	7.973400
Korea	Won	0.000742	0.000852	0.047000
Sweden	Kroner	0.111511	0.128015	7.064000
Syria	Pound	0.02074	0.023810	1.313900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025733	0.029542	1.630200
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000546	0.000627	0.034600

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks fall for 6th straight day

STOCKS fell for a sixth straight session yesterday, led by a slide in PLDT and technical selling after the main index breached a recent support mark, traders said.

"We broke a key support of 1,380 points early in trade and that set the tone for the day's sell-off," said Rommel Macapagal, chair of Westlink Global Securities.

Political jitters and fears about rising interest rates after a spike in yields at Treasury auctions this week also weighed on sentiment.

"The political situation is a lingering concern and there is also some anxiety over rising interest rates. If that keeps up it may make fixed income instruments more attractive again and the market is watching that," Macapagal said.

The main composite index fell 20.28 points, or 1.47 percent, to 1,363.53 points, its lowest closing mark since Oct. 28, 2003. For the year to date, though, it is up 33.9 percent.

Value turnover totaled a hefty P6.5 billion, but most of it was accounted for by a block sale of Globe Telecom shares totalling P5.737 billion.

Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel) yesterday announced they were selling up to 7.63 million Globe shares at P765 each.

The stock was suspended for most of the session.

Macapagal said with support levels breached, most key earnings results out and worries about politics and interest rates, prices were set to weaken further in the short term. *Reuters*

MWSS issues $30M in bonds

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System has issued an additional $30 million worth of bonds in the local market to pay maturing obligations and finance part of its capital expenditures.

The new bond issue is on top of the $105 million in refinancing it secured two months ago.

The water firm has to settle P6 billion in debts falling due until the first quarter that should have been paid by one of its concessionaires, Maynilad Water Services Inc.

MWSS officials said half or P780 million would be underwritten by Keppel Bank and the balance by First Metro Investment Corp., the investment banking arm of the Metrobank Group.

The one-year bonds are backed by a sovereign guarantee. The loan agreement was signed Tuesday night at the Department of Finance.

Two months ago, MWSS got a $105-million loan from Deutsche Bank, the proceeds of which was also used to pay a $100-million loan from the bank.

Due to an ongoing arbitration case between MWSS and Maynilad, the state entity would have to shoulder the liabilities while the issue is not settled although the arbitration court had ordered the Lopez firm over the weekend to pay P6 billion in maturing debts.

Maynilad, a joint venture of the Lopez group and French firm Ondeo, had stopped paying concession fees and filed for an early termination of its concession agreement with the MWSS. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Metrobank to increase power sector investment

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's biggest financial institution, is planning to invest an additional P9 billion into the power sector by acquiring five more power generation companies nationwide together with its investment banking arm First Metro Investment Corp.

Bank officials said the group controlled by taipan George Ty would buy five existing power producers--one in Palawan, another in Cebu and three in the Visayas.

The new investments will also involve Mirant Corp., the most profitable independent power producer in the country that operates the Sual and Pagbilao plants in Luzon.

The Metrobank group has spent P5 billion this year in its venture into the power sector, of which P2.33 billion was used to acquire the Lopez group's Panay Power Corp., operator of a 72-megawatt power plant that the Lopez group was forced to sell to pay its maturing foreign-denominated debt.

Metrobank, First Metro and Mirant are putting up a 40-MW power plant on Panay Island worth $40 million. It is expected to start operation early next year.

First Metro president Francisco Sebastian said the Metrobank group would like to strengthen its foothold in the power sector without losing sight of its interests in the financial sector.

Message in a battle

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IN ONE single ordinary day, while nobody was looking, the courts issued orders one after the other, which supposedly homed in on the "interests" of a certain Danding.

In the stock market, where those "interests" are closely watched by investors, foreign and local alike, they take those court orders as a little message: It's payback time!

Directly hit by the orders were the publicly listed companies Ginebra San Miguel (formerly La Tondeña) and Cyberbay (formerly Amari).

Ginebra San Miguel is a subsidiary of San Miguel, the biggest private business in the country, which has Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., a.k.a. Danding, for chair and CEO.

Danding has nothing to do with Cyberbay. But this company has a certain Ramon Ang for a stockholder, and Ang is the president and COO of San Miguel.

It so happens that the camp of Chief Justice Hilario Davide placed Danding as the leading suspect behind the move in the House of Representatives to impeach Davide.

Right after the Davide camp won the impeachment battle, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals ruled against the companies. On the same day! What a coincidence!

* * *

IN THE STOCK market, no wonder, they think that Danding should see a message in those court orders against Ginebra San Miguel and Cyberbay, courtesy of the Davide camp.

And that is, whatever you do, just don't mess around with anybody in the Supreme Court or else...

Unfortunately, the payback for Danding hurt a lot of other people, particularly all those thousands of small stupid stockholders of those listed companies.

The investing public is what, in this short-lived impeachment battle, the Davide camp may lovingly refer to as collateral damage.

* * *

STILL, the stock market should appreciate the urgency behind those court orders which coincidentally came out one after the other on the same day.

The orders covered matters of national security, national pride, and national funeral homes—all rolled into one.

The case of Cyberbay, for instance, which has something to do with the Amari land reclamation, has been pending for only the past 10 years.

As for the case of Ginebra San Miguel, the Court of Appeals ruling was made by somebody who happened to be a foot soldier of Davide in the impeachment battle.

Just how impressive those two rulings made the public image of the judiciary, well, at least before the eyes of the business community, is again anybody's guess.

* * *

WHAT may happen now, according to this topnotch lawyer, is that the business community may just give up altogether in the bigger war to reform the judiciary.

In any battle for public opinion, such as the one over the Davide impeachment, favors would have to be asked and favors would have to be taken.

And the multi-billion question in business is this: How do they, up there in this country, repay favors again?

Like it or not, this impeachment battle caught the attention of the entire nation regarding the foolishness in the judiciary.

In every forum, business complains about corruption in the judiciary. Corporate lawyers talk about it all the time. Precisely, nobody does anything about it.

And what about the father-and-son team, backed up by the father-and-daughter tandem, in the Supreme Court—status quo, too?

It's not as if nothing has happened. Sons and daughters of public officials may be incapable of sinning, but putting them in charge of contracts still does not look proper.

* * *

IT SEEMS that, from now on, as the campaign for who is going to be king in 2004 picks up, Mike the Knife is going to make himself scarce.

Based on word going around in business, somebody in the Palace may decide to banish Mike the Knife perhaps to the United States.

It seems the First Gentleman will go into exile during the campaign period, which will be handled instead for Gloriaetta by a Malacañang official.

The thinking is that the biggest beneficiary of the impeachment battle for public opinion was none other than Jose Pidal.

Now that the battle is over, the Jose Pidal issue may again move up the ladder of mass media priorities. This is not good for Malacañang.

* * *

SOME four years ago, the local ad agency AMA (Advertising and Marketing Associates) merged with the French advertising giant Publicis and its local partner Basic.

The threesome, apparently, was a bad idea. AMA is filing for divorce, seeking from the SEC an "involuntary dissolution" of the merger company called Publicis-AMA.

Surprisingly, among those seeking the dissolution is Joselito de Joya, who used to be the big boss in AMA, and who became chair of the joint venture.

The main reason for the dissolution, according to the petitioners, who are all formerly part of Publicis-AMA, is violation of the Constitution. Hmm.

Still, nobody can tell if the case, since it involves violation of the Constitution, calls for another self-serving ruling by the Supreme Court.

* * *

ANYWAY, based on the case, Publicis took control of the joint venture after the death of Basic's main man Antonio Mercado.

Because of the French takeover of the management, roughly three-fourths of the Filipino executives in the joint venture already resigned, or some 60 out of 90.

After the mass resignation, De Joya and company filed the involuntary dissolution case before the SEC. They said the French actually own 66 percent of the joint venture.

Under the Constitution, foreign ownership of advertising agencies is limited to 30 percent, which Publicis allegedly violated through the use of dummies.

* * *

ANOTHER petitioner is Gil Chua, who is a former senior executive of Publicis-AMA. Chua is represented by the Romulo, Mabanta, Buenaventura, Sayoc & De Los Angeles law firm.

It was Chua, according to the petition, who gathered the information showing the real owner of the shares in the joint venture which were put in the names of Filipinos.

Chua got the information from e-mails. They dealt with the taxes which the French multinational had to pay abroad. Naturally, the tax payments must consider its holdings in the local joint venture.

In the e-mails, the corporate secretary of Publicis-AMA allegedly confirmed to the auditors of Publicis abroad that Publicis owns majority of the local company.

Now the question is—what is the jurisprudence regarding e-mails? I guess this calls for another monumental, precedent-setting ruling by the Supreme Court.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, November 12, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.75	17.25	17.75	33,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44	44.5	44	44.5	1,362,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35	35	34.5	34.5	79,300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	390,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27	26.5	27	29,600
Philippine National Bank	25	25	23.5	24.25	58,000
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	28	28	10,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	3,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1650	1650	1650	1650	90
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	293,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1325	1325	1310	1315	250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	26	25.5	26	8,300
Diversified Fin. Network	2	2	1.98	2	93,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	.69	2,360,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	805	800	805	22,140
ISM Communications Corp.	0.041	0.041	0.039	.04	5,300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.09	0.09	0.09	.09	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	26,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.86	0.87	0.84	0.87	6,310,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	800	805	795	795	311,560
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	9,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.25	13.75	13	13.5	1,441,500
Manila Electric Co. B	19.75	20	19.5	20	2,259,400
Petron Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2.02	2,946,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	.92	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.15	3.1	5 3.1	5 3.15	4,840,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.3	5 .3	5 .35	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.97	0.9	7 .9	7 .97	730,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.05	3	5 3.0	5 3.05	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	3	0 3	0 30	6,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	16.7	5 16.	5 16.5	24,800
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.7	1 .7	1 .71	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	54	5 5	4 54.5	111,400
San Miguel Corp. B	61.5	6	2 6	1 61	167,200
Universal Robina Corp.	5.6	5	6 5.	5 5.6	697,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.2	7 .2	7 .27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5		5 4.9	5 5	15,358,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3	2 3.1	5 3.15	1,692,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.02	8 .02	8 .028	1,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.76	0.7	6 .7	6 .76	600,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.006	5 .006	5 .0065	45,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.4	5 .4	5 .45	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.48	.	5 .4	6 .5	16,500,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.11	0.1	1 .1	1 .11	20,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.23	5 .20	5 .215	2,020,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0575	0.057	5 .0	5 .05	9,500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.2	5 .2	5 .25	1,200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1		1	1 1	16,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17	17.2	5 16.2	.5 17.25	1,687,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0	8 .0	8 .08	1,900,000
Ionics Inc.	1.6	1	6 1.5	6 1.56	22,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2	4 2.0	4 2.04	220,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.04	1	4 1.0	4 1.04	1,363,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.15	0.1	5 .1	5 .15	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.2	8 .2	8 .28	2,920,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.3	9 .3	8 .38	1,550,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.2	4 .2	1 .21	1,800,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.11	0.1	3 .10	5 .11	1,430,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.3	2 .3	2 .32	110,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.75	2.7	5 2.7	5 2.75	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.95		1 .9	5 1	140,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0	6 .0	6 .06	400,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.16	0.1	6 .1	6 .16	90,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.56	0.5	8 .5	6 .56	8,320,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.2	.	2 .	2 .2	40,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	.	3 .	3 .3	160,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	26	2	6 25.	5 26	49,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10	5 10.	5 10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10	5 10.	5 10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10	5 10.	5 10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10	5 10.	5 10.5	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10	5 10.	5 10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10	5 10.	5 10.5	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.3	6	3 6.	1 6.2	15,282,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.3	3 .3	3 .33	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.175	0.17	5 .1	2 .135	32,140,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.23	5 .2	3 .235	1,480,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.4	.4	.4	.4	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1	6 1.0	6 1.06	1,750,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.185	0.18	5 .1	8 .18	80,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.8	1	8 1.	8 1.8	4,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1	1 1.0	8 1.08	136,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6	6 6.	4 6.4	14,898,000
Zipporah Rlty Hldgs. Inc.	0.35	0.3	5 .3	5 .35	60,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.2	3 .22	5 .225	1,800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.3	2 .3	2 .32	1,070,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0085	0.008	5 .00	8 .008	29,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.003	2 .003	2 .0032	102,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.3	2 .3	2 .32	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.36	0.3	6 .3	5 .35	660,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.003	2 .003	2 .0032	50,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.165	0.1	7 .16	5 .17	350,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P) (P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,269,640	67,735,795.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	200,999,500	6,408,647,620.00
PRO	65,860,000	198,083,880.00
Mining	134,630,000	1,580,400.00
OIL	50,350,000	218,050.00
GRAND TOTALS	454,109,140	6,676,265,745.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	433.73	DOWN 2.58
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,027.54	DOWN 25.45
PRO	573.63	DOWN 20.76
Mining	1,637.05	DOWN 20.37
OIL	1.38	UP 0.01
All Shares Index	833.82	DOWN 7.51
Composite	1,363.53	DOWN 20.28

LEUNG'S REPLACEMENT

Exchange elects new president

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange board yesterday elected former Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga as the exchange's new president to replace Ernest Leung effective Feb. 1 next year.

PSE sources told the INQUIRER that a nomination committee selected Paderanga, 55, from a short list of five candidates.

Outgoing president Leung confirmed that the board had ratified the nomination committee's recommendation during its meeting yesterday.

Paderanga has served the PSE as an independent or non-broker director in the last three years.

Paderanga, a professor at the University of the Philippines School of Economics, used to serve as a member of the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and as an executive director of the Asian Development Bank.

In an interview, Paderanga said he was willing to serve the PSE to continue the reforms that were started when the Makati and Manila stock exchanges unified. These reforms, he said, would bring the local bourse at par with global standards.

Asked about his priorities, Paderanga said it would be important for the bourse to continue with the PSE's staff development program and the improvement of its trading infrastructure and processes.

"It's an honor to be given this opportunity," Paderanga said.

Three other incumbent PSE non-broker directors were included in the nomination committee's short list. They were former banker Peter Favila, former Customs Commissioner Tomas Apacible and lawyer Francis Lim.

Other PSE sources earlier said outgoing president Leung had declined another term in office.

PADERANGA JOHNNY VILLENA

SingTel, Ayala sell 5% Globe stake for ₱5.8B

AYALA Corp. and Singapore Telecom International yesterday sold to foreign institutional investors their combined 5-percent stake in leading wireless telephone provider Globe Telecom for P5.8 billion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Ayala Corp. managing director Rufino Luis Manotok said the company's board had approved the joint sale with SingTel of up to 7.63 million shares in Globe at P765 per share.

In an interview, Manotok said Ayala and SingTel would remain equal equity partners in Globe Telecom with stake of 40 percent each.

The selling price represents a 12.5-percent premium over the P680-million per share price at which Ayala and SingTel recently purchased additional shares from debt-strapped partner Deutshce Telekom. However, it was lower than the P805 per share closing price of Globe Telecom as of yesterday.

"We don't know who the buyers are. These are private placements and we just commissioned the brokers to sell the shares," Manotok said.

The sale was brokered by Deutsche Regis Partners Inc. and BPI Securities Corp.

Of the 7.63 million shares that Ayala and SingTel were selling, however, only 7.5 million was actually sold yesterday as the PSE turned down an offer from broker BPI Securities to distribute 130,000 shares through other local brokers, according to sources from the trading floor.

Early in the morning, the sources said BPI Securities wrote the PSE to inform them that it had earmarked 130,000 Globe Telecom shares for the PSE member-brokers, representing an allocation of 2,500 shares each per brokerage house. This was to give local investors the opportunity to buy Globe Telecom shares at the same price that the 7.5 million block was sold to foreign investors.

The offer, however, was not accepted as the PSE believed it was against fair market practices. The sources said the PSE feared the brokers might not distribute the shares to the clients and instead keep those in their dealer accounts. Another concern was that it might trigger a decline in Globe Telecom shares. *Doris C. Dumlao*

DISCLOSURES

MANILA Jockey Club Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 5, 9 a.m. at the Amethyst Room of Manila Diamond Hotel. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 5 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

JARDINE Davies Inc. will close its building solutions division effective Jan. 1, 2004 following the decision of the company to focus on its core marketing and distribution businesses of agrochemical products.

* * *

BENGUET Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 17, 3 p.m. at the Sign of the Anvil, 5/F of Equitable-PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 4 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. amended its by-laws changing the schedule of its annual stockholders' meeting from "every Monday of May" to "every third Monday of May." The company will subscribe to 1 million shares in Subic Enerzone Corp.

* * *

FORTUNE Cement Corp. disclosed the election of Mary Margaret San Pedro as treasurer of the company. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Ayala Corp. 9-month profit hit ₱2.2B

By Elena R. Torrijos

PUBLICLY listed Ayala Corp., the holding company of the Ayala family, registered a 17-percent decline in its unaudited consolidated profit in the first nine months of this year to P2.2 billion, from P2.65 billion in the same period last year.

A Reuters computation based on the nine-month figures showed that Ayala's income in the third quarter hit P800 million, representing a six-fold increase from last year's level. For the third quarter of 2002, the conglomerate had a net income of P110 million.

Last year's three-quarter income was higher because of extra ordinary earnings from the sale of certain assets.

In a statement, Ayala Corp. said that on a recurring basis, the profit in the first nine months which reached P2.1 billion was triple the P671 million registered last year.

"The stronger equity earnings for the first three quarters more than offset the 20-percent rise in consolidated interest and other financing charges year-on-year, which were mainly due to increased borrowings at the parent level," Ayala Corp. said.

Ayala Corp.'s P2.6-billion profit in the first nine months of last year included over P1 billion in capital gains from the sale of its shares in units Ayala Land Inc. and Globe Telecom.

"We are pleased with the results of our operating companies, especially given the difficult macroeconomic conditions under which they have been achieved," Ayala Corp. president and chief executive Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II said.

"We are confident that we are on track to improve upon last year's full year profitability, especially as our fourth quarter accounts will reflect a higher proportion of Globe's earnings," he added.

Ayala Corp. said its key subsidiaries posted increased profits in the nine-month period of this year.

PUBLIC AUCTION
HMR AUCTION SERVICES, INC.
VIEWING DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2003 (FRI) 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
AUCTION DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2003 (SAT) 10:30 AM
VENUE: PHILACOR DRIVE, DR. A. SANTOS AVE, SUCAT, PARANAQUE CITY

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ELECTRONIC ITEMS
DVD Players· VHS Players· Camcorders· Televisions· Cassette Recorders· Mobile Phones· Security Cameras· Speakers·
OTHER ITEMS
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Petron project gets tax perks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

OIL giant Petron Corp. said it was granted tax incentives by the Board of Investments the upgrading of its Bataan refinery worth $100-million.

In a report to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Petron corporate secretary Luis A. Maglaya said the company had received a letter from BOI saying that its application for incentives were approved.

Maglaya said Petron was entitled to avail itself of the following incentives:

- income tax holiday for five years;
- lower duty of 3 percent and value added tax on imported equipment;
- tax credit on domestic capital equipment that are locally made
- exemption from taxes and tax credits on imported spare parts for consigned equipment with bonded manufacturing warehouse; and
- exemption from real property tax on production equipment or machinery.

Last month, Maglaya reported that Petron had signed contracts for the construction work on the refinery upgrade, which is seen to make the facility more competitive compared to overseas refiners.

The official said the contract was worth about $49.17 million plus P767.27 million.

The deal—forged with the partnership of Stone and Webster International Inc. and CTCI Corp.—covers engineering, procurement and construction of the gas oil hydrotreater No. 3 and isomerization unit.

Experts explain that a hydrotreater is needed for the lowering of the sulfur content of diesel while the isomerization unit helps in reducing the aromatics and benzene content—both of which have been identified to cause cancer—of gasoline products.

Maglaya said the two refinery units would enhance Petron's compliance with the stringent petroleum product requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

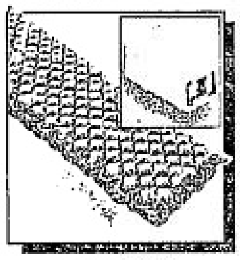
The law requires that starting Jan. 1, diesel products should contain only 0.05 percent of sulfur.

Petron public affairs manager Virginia Ruivivar said in an interview last month that due to the new product standard, the company would be importing about a third of its diesel requirements while waiting for the refinery upgrades to be completed late next year.

"Our investments on the upgrade of our refinery means we are strengthening our self-sufficiency.

Once the upgrade is completed by end 2004, Petron will stop importing diesel.

Petron's refinery can process up to 180,000 barrels of crude per day (bpd), although it currently runs between 120,000 bpc and 130,000 bpd.



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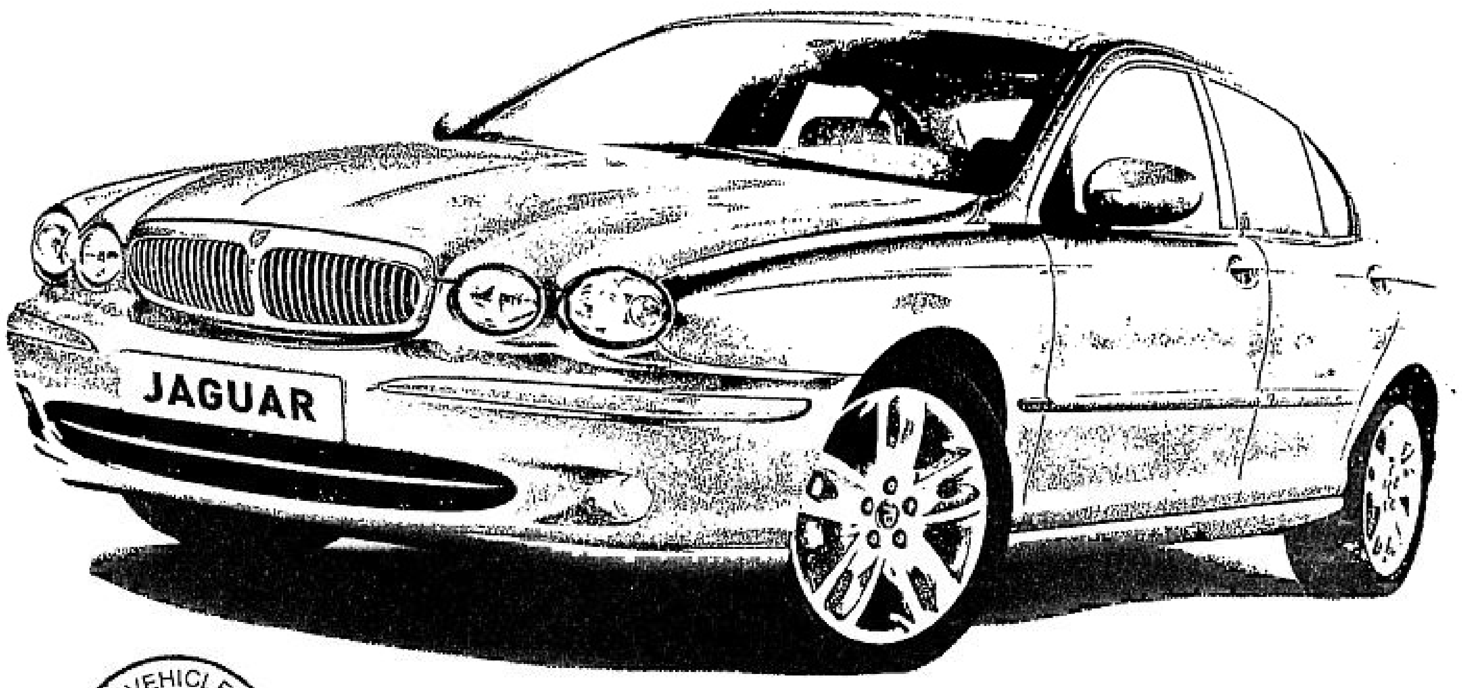

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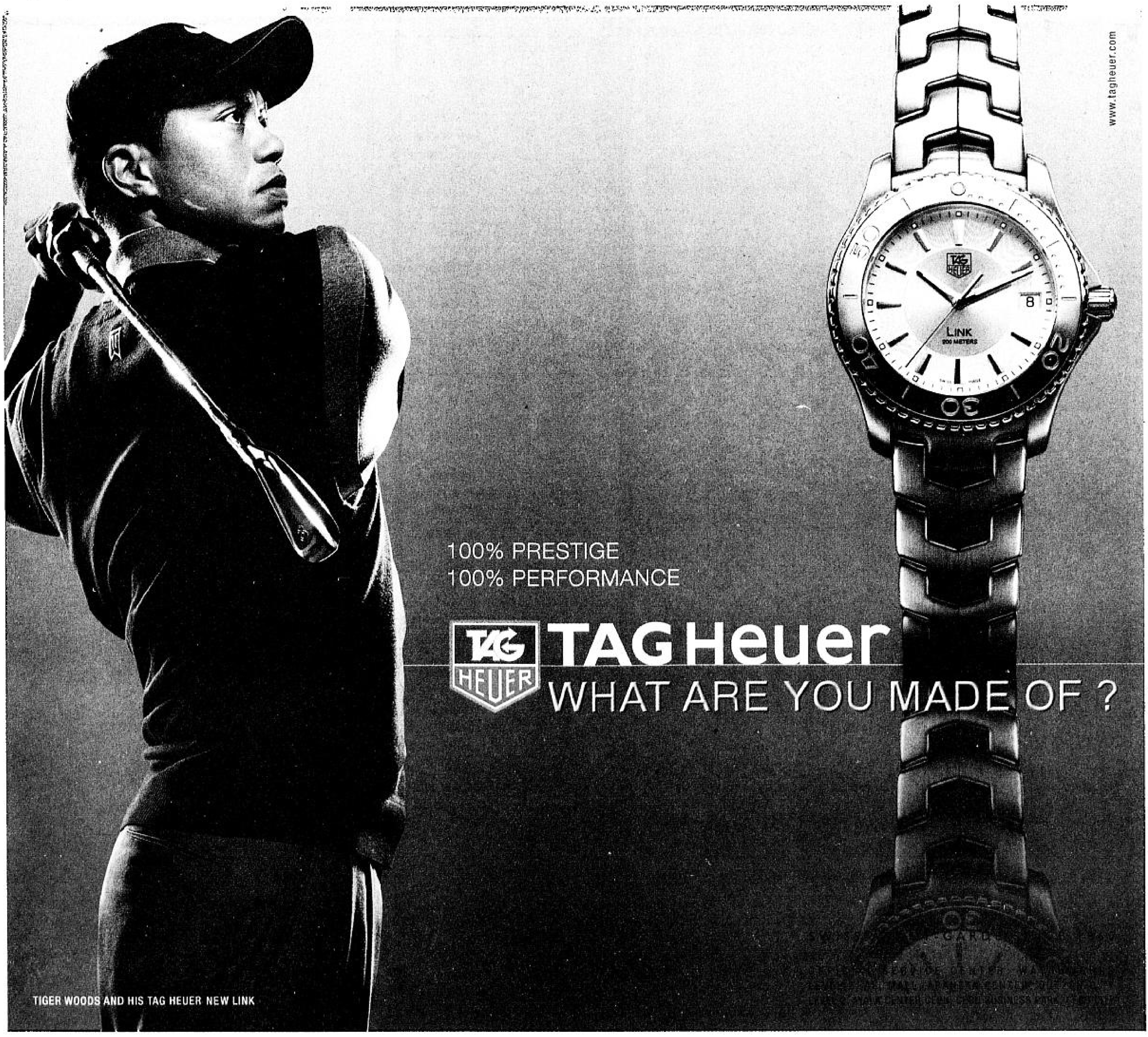

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6 DARK BLUE
7 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 UNDERWORLD
4 THE RUNDOWN
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8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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9 MY FIRST ROMANCE
10 MAPANUKSO

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7 THE WISHER
8 MY FIRST ROMANCE
9 LIBERATED
10 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
11 THE PHONE
12 MAPANUKSO

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3 LIBERATED
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE

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2 RESERVED
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4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 FREAKY FRIDAY
7 RESERVED
8 INNER SENSES

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4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 DARK BLUE
6 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
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8 IDENTITY
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10 THE WISHER
11 TEMPTING HEART
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2 DARK BLUE
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:00 END

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2 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	5 DARK BLUE 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 10:20, 1:00, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00	6 IDENTITY 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	9 WISHER 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
8 LIBERATED 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	10 TEMPTING HEARTS 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

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2 THE PHONE - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
3 LIBERATED - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
4 DARK BLUE - 11:16, 1:26, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00
5 WISHER - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
6 WRONG TURN - 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:30, 10:00
7 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS - 10:15, 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

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1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 UPTOWN GIRLS
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THE SUSPECT	4	DARK BLUE
DARK BLUE	5	MY FIRST ROMANCE
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MY FIRST ROMANCE	2	FREAKY FRIDAY
THE SUSPECT	3	INNER SENSES
FREAKY FRIDAY	4	UNDERWORLD
MATCHSTICK MEN	5	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
	6	MAPUPULANG LABI

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THE PHONE	2	IDENTITY
MAPUPULANG LABI	3	UPTOWN GIRLS
IDENTITY	4	MY FIRST ROMANCE
UNDERWORLD	5	UNDERWORLD

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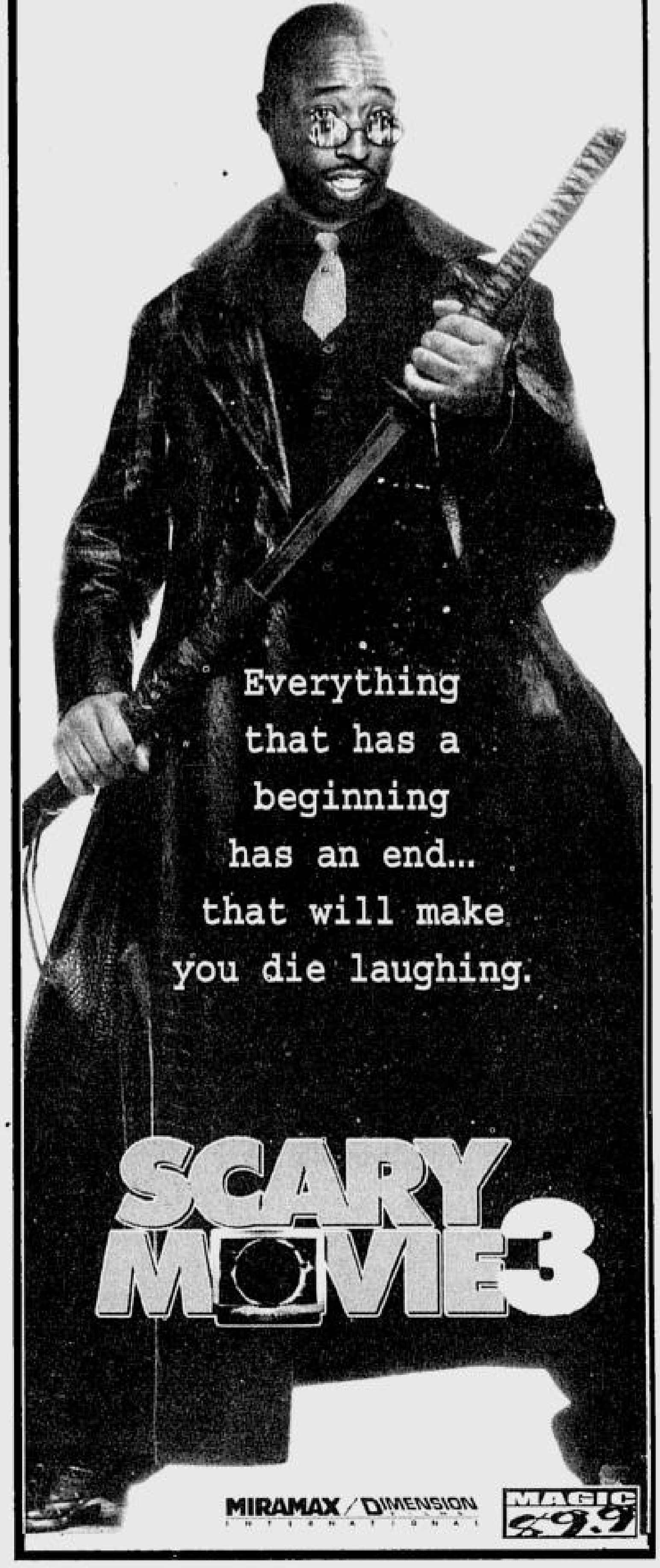
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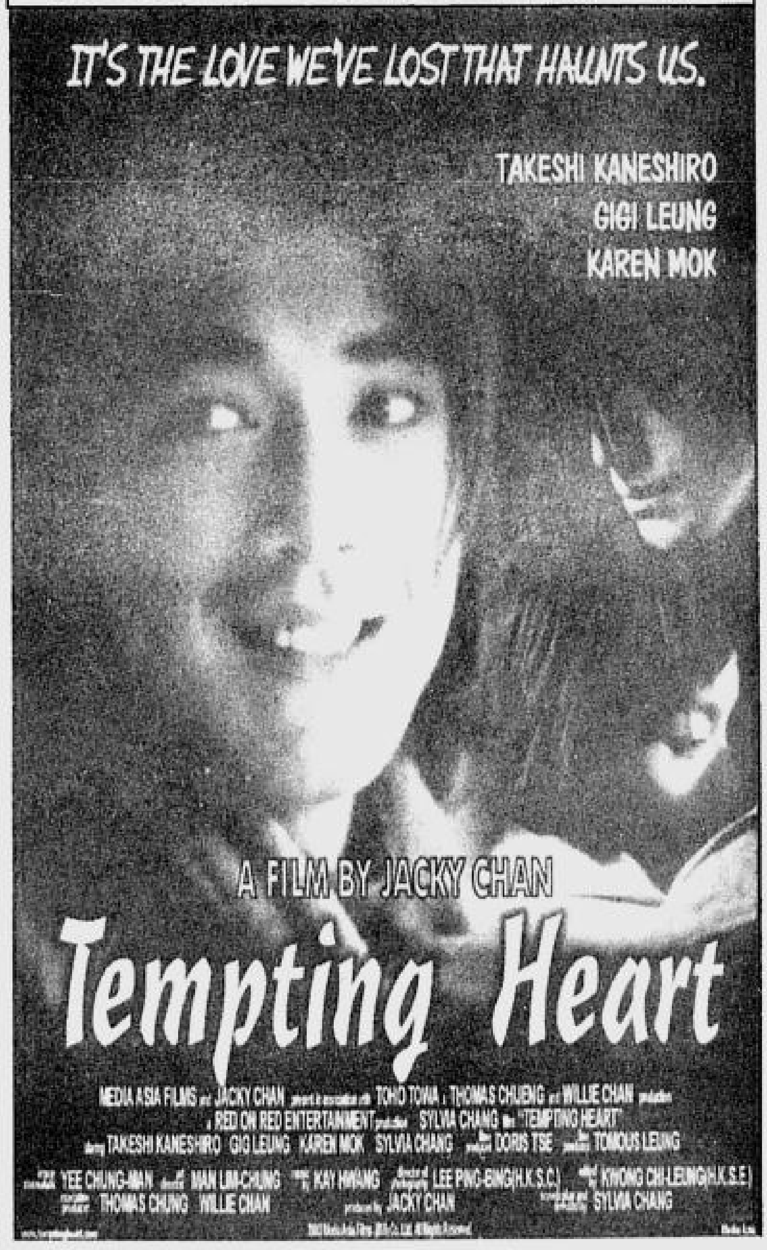
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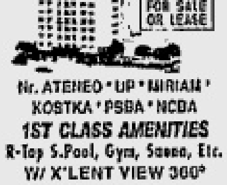

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Notice is given that the Heirs of spouses Fortunato Ratunil and Corazon S. Balajadia extrajudicially settled their estate per Doc. No. 373, Page No. 75, Book No. 60, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Jaime L. Ballesta of Iligan City (PDI-No.v 6, 13 & 20, 2003)

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NOTICE OF TRANSFER OF OFFICE ADDRESS

Please be informed that *C.S.C. MANILA, INC.* will transfer its office at the following address effective November 8, 2003.

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Please be guided accordingly.

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

Victorias Milling Company, Inc., Victorias City, Negros Occidental, wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the **supply of Regenerant Chemicals needed for the I.E.R. Decolorization Station.** Suppliers must provide inventory stock for two(2) months per order of the following production supplies/ chemicals needed:

1. **NaCl (Sodium Chloride) (not lower than 97% salinity, granular)**
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The pre-qualification forms are available at the MCD Office, VMC Millsite and at the VMC Makati Procurement Office during office hours from **November 13 to 19, 2003**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P300.00. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification papers is on **November 25, 2003**. The pre-bid conference will be held on **November 27, 2003, 3:30 P.M. at the HRD Conference Room, VMC Millsite, Victorias City, Negros Occidental**. The bidding date will be announced thereafter. Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price in the form of Cashier's/Manager's check.

For further inquiries, please contact Messrs. **Carlos S. Quiatchon, Dan C. Labrador or Ramon P. Pun-an** at VMC Millsite at telephone numbers **(034)399-3696 to 97, (034)399-3699 and 2309(local)**, and **Mr. Ping A. Abad** at VMC Makati Procurement Office at telephone numbers, **(02)890-5256** and **(02)890-7062**.

Victorias Milling Company, Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the company. The Company assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder/s for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

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CAPT. TEODOSIO NER FOJAS

Asst. Director, Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey (Retired)

Peacefully joined his Creator
on November 11, 2003 at the age of 88 years old.

His bereaved wife **Dra. Lily Cenizal-Fojas**; son **Jesse**; daughter-in-law **Imee**; granddaughter **Camille**; his brothers and sisters; cousins; nephews and nieces; together with the Board of Directors, Stockholders, Officers and Staff of Bangko Mabuhay (Rural Bank of Tanza (Cavite), Inc.), request the faithful to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence at No. 02 Hugo Arca St., Biwas, Tanza, Cavite.

Interment will be on **Sunday, November 16, 2003, after the two o' clock p.m. Mass** at the Holy Cross Parish Church, Poblacion, Tanza, Cavite.

"My soul, be at rest in God alone from whom comes my hope."
Psalm 62:6

MANUEL GALLO ROXAS, M.D.

Former Undersecretary of the Department of Health

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on November 10, 2003 at the age of 72.

He is survived by his loving wife **TESSIE**; children **EMILY & HERMAN, BEBOT & MABELLE; MARIO & ROSELYN, MAURO & SWEET, ELLEN**; grandchildren **HEC-HEC, HERBERT, TRINA, MANUEL III, MELISSA, MATTHEW, DARYL, ANDRE & BIANCA**, brothers and sisters.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Felicidad, Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue,Quezon City.

Interment will be on November 15, 2003 at Krus sa Wawa Cemetery, Bocaue, Bulacan, 9:00 a.m.

CIRILA GOROSPE LLAVORE

of Balaoan, La Union and Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat, and beloved wife of the late Zosimo Estaque Llavore

Peacefully passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 7, 2003

Her loving and bereaved children:

Ediltrudes & Jose Tapia, Jr.; Amparo & Romeo Reniedo; Amelia & Rey Cube; Natividad & Jun Bets; Arturo & Rosie Llavore; Francisco & Lorraine Llavore; Rudima & Edgar Taberna.

Sisters, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 15 at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, after the 9:00 AM Mass.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:6-7

SOLON MA. "BONG" M. SICAT

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 11, 2003 at the age of 40.

His bereaved wife **ALELI**; son **PAOLO VICENTE**; parents **DR. VICENTE R. SICAT** and **PERLA MARAVILLA SICAT**; sister **MA. SARAH**; brother **SIMON MA.**; sister-in-law **MARIA LOURDES**; parents-in-law **LITO & LINDA**; brothers and sisters-in-law, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Chapel of the Resurrection, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church (Claret), U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be on November 15, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
On the THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY of

FLORENCIO M. LEPORGO, SR.

who passed away on November 13, 2000

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Masses offered at:

St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Surigao City	5:30 AM
Surigao City Cathedral	5:30 PM
San Antonio de Padua Parish, Los Baños, Laguna	6:00 PM
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish, Ermita, Manila	6:00 PM

FLORA GARCIA MARTINEZ

of Calapan, Or. Mindoro

Died peacefully
on November 11, 2003 at the age of 94.

Her remains will be transferred from St. John Chapel of Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City to Calapan Cathedral on November 13, 2003. Please pray for her eternal repose.

The funeral will take place on Saturday, November 15, 2003 in Calapan.

So Lovingly Remembered
So Sadly Missed

Our Beloved

Gaudencio Embuscado Antonino

On the day of the thirty sixth Anniversary
Of his Birth to Eternal Life
November 13, 1967

HIS WIFE MAGNOLIA TOGETHER WITH THEIR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN REQUEST RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND PIOUS READERS TO PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

Masses at:		
	MT. CARMEL SHRINE	*7:00 am and 6:00 pm*
	SAN AGUSTIN PARISH *Jaen, Nueva Ecija*	*5:00 pm*
	ST. BENEDICT, Alabang	*6:10 am and 6:30 pm*
	ST. JAMES, Alabang	*6:20 am and 6:30 pm*

CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late

ROSARIO "CHARING" ROCO VDA DE FACUNDO

May 24, 1913 – October 03, 2003

wish to express their gratitude and appreciation to all those who in one way or another condoled with them in their hour of bereavement.

FRANCISCO S. MORALES, SR.

of Morales Glass & Aluminum Supply, Tarlac City
went home to our Creator on November 12, 2003

His loving family **Rosa (†)**; **Belen** & children **Rey, Lyn, Let, Son, Boy, Bebeth, Rose, Jell, Meng** and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Funeraria Enriquez, F. Tanedo St., Tarlac City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 15, 2003 at Eternal Memorial Park after the 2:00 P.M. Mass at the San Sebastian Cathedral, Tarlac City.

BERNARDINO M. ITURRALDE

of Batangas City

Peacefully joined our Lord
at the age of 79.

His late wife **Amparo** (†); loving children **Ariel** (†) and **Belen**, **Alice** and **Rene**, **Nora** and **Demy**, **Bella**, **Marcia** and **Willy**, **Fe**, **Edna** and **Nestor**, **Emil** and **Emma**, **Ate Goring** (sister) and **Nimrod**, **Polly** and children, together with grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Basilica Memorial Chapels, Batangas City,.

Interment today,
November 13, 2003
at the Eternal Gardens,
Batangas City at 3:00 p.m.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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KALAW: 528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL: 635-0219; 635-0220

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

Headquarters and Gen. Pool
Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines 3120
Fax 63 (44) 456-0730
Tel 63 (44) 456-0731 to 34
Email: dmmbasa@mozcom.com
Manila Liaison Office
5/F, DCIEC Bldg., NIA Cmpd., EDSA,
Quezon City, Philippines 0830
Tel/Fax 63(2) 921-3863
63(2) 926-7707
E-mail: pccnla@mozcom.com,

November 5, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The **Philippine Carabao Center (PCC)**, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture is inviting all interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

	Packages		Approved Budget
I.	Semen Processing and Artificial Insemination Supplies	P	654,000.00
II.	Veterinary Drugs and Supplies		625,000.00
	Total	P	1,279,000.00

The date of bidding and pre-bidding conference including the eligibility requirements are detailed as follows:

Date of bidding — **December 8, 2003, 10:00 a.m.**
Place of bidding — PCC Liaison Office, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City

A. **Requirements to be submitted on the date of the bidding**
Envelope 1 — Eligibility Envelope
Envelope 2 — Technical Envelope
Envelope 3 — Financial Documents
Envelope 4 — Bid Proposal
Pre-bid conference — **November 24, 2003**
Issuance of Instructions to Bidders, Bid Proposal Forms bidding documents — **November 17 to 21, 2003**

B. **Eligibility Requirements:**

B.1 **Legal Documents (Envelope 1)**
- Mayor's Permit Municipal License (Current)
- DTI/SEC Registration (Current)
- BIR, TIN and VAT Registrations
- Statement that the firm is not blacklisted by any government office, agency or corporation

B.2.1 **Technical Documents (Envelope 2)**
- Track record of previous similar transactions/sales delivered and accepted
- Purchase Order related to the items to be procured. The previous sales or contract shall be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the item to be bidded
- A valid Bureau of Foods and Drugs registration of the product shall also be submitted

B.2.2 **Financial Documents (Envelope 3)**
- Financial Statement stamped "Received" by the BIR for the immediate preceding calendar or fiscal years duly notarized. The working capital (current assets less current liabilities) of the two (2) audited Financial Statements shall be at least equal to the total amount of the approved agency estimate.

C. **Bid Proposal (Envelope 4)**
- Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price in the form of cash or manager's/cashier's check from a bank or financial institution.

For further information, please call Engr. Eduardo Dalusong, Procurement Officer at telephone numbers (044) 4560-731 to 34 or Mr. Rogel M. dela Cuesta at telephone numbers 926-7707 and 921-3863.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation and Award shall be governed by Republic Act No. 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The PCC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any defect or required formality therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is advantageous to the government. PCC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does not guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **LIBERTADO C. CRUZ**
Executive Director

(PDI - Nov. 13 & 14, 2003)

NOTICE OF MERGER

Notice is hereby given that the Articles of Merger and Plan of Merger of IMI REALTY, INC., as the surviving corporation, and SALCEDO SUNVAR REALTY CORP., as the absorbed corporation, have been approved in meetings duly called for the purpose, by majority vote of the respective Board of Directors and by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital stock of the said corporations. The said Articles of Merger and Plan of Merger will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission immediately after the required publication of this notice has been completed.

This announcement shall serve as notice to all interested parties of the legal effects of the aforesaid merger.

October 28, 2003.

Makati City, Metro Manila

MARIXI R. PRIETO
Corporate Secretary of
IMI Realty, Inc. and
Salcedo Sunvar Realty Corp.

(PDI–Oct. 30, Nov. 6 & 13, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
Region VIII
Division of Eastern Samar
Borongan

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

November 13, 2003
To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Corporation (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov. 1997).
2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders of at least Small Sub-category B.

Package 1 - Construction of One (1) Unit - Two (2) Classrooms School Building and Repair/Rehabilitation of One (1) Unit - Two (2) Classrooms School Building at Carayacay Elementary School at Brgy. Carayacay, Municipality of Maslog
Package 2 - Repair/Rehabilitation of One (1) Unit - Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Maslog Elementary School at Poblacion, Municipality of Maslog.
Package 3 - Repair/Rehabilitation of Two (2) Units - Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Bulosao Elementary School and Maslog Elementary School at Lawaan Municipality.
Package 4 - Repair/Rehabilitation of Three (3) Units - Seven (7) Classrooms School Building at Bacjao Elementary School, Guinmaayohan Elementary School and Santa Rosa Elementary School at Balangiga Municipality.
Package 5 - Repair/Rehabilitation of Two (2) Units - Five (5) Classrooms School Building at Casuguran Elementary School and Culasi Elementary School at Guiuan Municipality.
Package 6 - Repair/Rehabilitation of Two (2) Units - Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Salug Elementary School and Trinidad Elementary School at Guiuan Municipality.
Package 7 - Repair/Rehabilitation of Two (2) Units - Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Carolina Elementary School and Cansangaya Elementary School at Can-Avid Municipality.
Package 8 - Repair/Rehabilitation of Two (2) Units - Eight (8) Classrooms School Building at Dapdap Central Elementary School and Dolores Central Elementary School at Dolores Municipality.
Package 9 - Repair/Rehabilitation of Two (2) Units - Five (5) Classrooms School Building at Factoria Elementary School and Oras East Central Elementary School at Oras Municipality.

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Eastern Samar with address at San Fernando St. Borongan, Eastern Samar from November 13 December 12, 2003 for a nonrefundable fee of One Thousand Pesos Only (Php 1,000.00) for each set. Pre-bid conference will be on November 27, 2003, 9:00 A.M. at DepEd Division Office of Eastern Samar. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education - Division Office of Eastern Samar, San Fernando St., Borongan, Eastern Samar on or before:

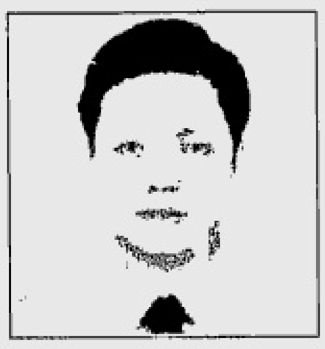
December 12, 2003, 9:00 AM - Package 1
December 12, 2003, 11:00 AM - Package 2
December 12, 2003, 1:00 PM - Package 3
December 12, 2003, 3:00 PM - Package 4
December 15, 2003, 9:00 AM - Package 5
December 15, 2003, 11:00 AM - Package 6
December 15, 2003, 1:00 PM - Package 7
December 15, 2003, 3:00 PM - Package 8
December 16, 2003, 10:00 AM - Package 9

At which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) **NINA J. VILLALON, Ph.D. CESO VI**
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Nov. 13, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



The public is hereby notified that **MR. ROMAN "ROY" L. MAURICIO**, whose last known address is Sollera, Pandayan, Meycauayan, Bulacan and whose picture appears above, is accused of committing two (2) counts of **ESTAFA THRU FALSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTS** in Criminal Case Nos. 650-M-99 and 651-M-99, pending before Branch 9 of the Regional Trial Court at Malolos, Bulacan.

The trial court has issued a warrant for the arrest of Mr. Mauricio. Anyone who has information on the whereabouts of Mr. Mauricio that may lead to his arrest may call Tel. Nos. (045) 963-25-25 local 558 or 559.

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LICENSED DENTISTS (MALE/FEMALE)

- 25 TO 40 YEARS OLD;
- AT LEAST TWO YEARS EXPERIENCE;
- SALARY - U.S. $800.00 - $1,000.00.

DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION WILL BE ON November 14, 2003

REQUIREMENTS: 2 sets of resumé, employment/training certificate, school records, 4 pcs. 2x2 and 2 pcs. full body picture for female applicants, PRC license & Board certificate, passport, NBI.

NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED "BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS" FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City Tel. No.: 928-4501 to 09
Cable Address: "Philcoa" P.O. Box 3386, Manila, TIN # 000724616

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bidding the property described below.

DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF PROPERTY
17,332 Square Meters with improvements under TCT No. 20592 of the Registry of Deeds for San Pablo City	Barangay San Ignacio, San Pablo City, Province of Laguna

Bid documents shall be available upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) at the Office of the Secretariat, PCA Real Property Disposal and Appraisal Committee, 2nd Floor PCA R & D Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City from **November 17-21, 2003.**

Sealed bid proposals shall be submitted and dropped at the Bid Box located at the Office of the Secretariat before the scheduled opening of bids on **November 24, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.**

Sealed bid proposals shall be opened in the presence of the participating bidders at the Executive Lounge, 8th Floor R & D Building, Diliman, Quezon City.

The sale of the property shall be on "As is, Where is" basis.

PCA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any defect or informality therein and to accept such bid proposals considered advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOSEFEL P. GRAGEDA**
Acting Chairman
PCA Real Property Disposal & Appraisal Committee

(PDI - Nov. 12, 13 & 14, 2003)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority invites contractors who have completed similar projects costing at least 50% of the proposed contracts and accredited with PCAB to bid for the contracts listed below:

Contract Package/ Location	Approved Budget	PCAB License	Work Description/ Duration
Minalabac Resettlement Project, Brgy. Antipolo Minalabac, Camarines Sur	P9.914 Million	"B"/MA for Irrigation and Flood Control	Land development works including road works, drainage, water and sewerage works

A. Interested contractors are required to secure from the BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City the list of basic requirements for registration and eligibility. Only NHA registered contractors shall be allowed to participate in the eligibility screening. Unregistered bidders must register not later than the deadline of submission of letter of intent on **November 20, 2003.**

B. The schedules of the eligibility screening and bidding activities are as follows:
Issuance of Application for Eligibility Forms - November 6-21, 2003
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Req'ts. - November 26, 2003 10:00 a.m.
Issuance of Bid Documents - November 27 - Dec. 5, 2003
Pre-Bid Conference - December 9, 2003
Dropping of Bids/Opening of Bids - December 23, 2003 not later than 10:00 a.m.

C. Eligibility requirement forms may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P200.00 at the NHA-BAC Secretariat Office. The Secretariat may be contacted at Tel. Nos. 929-8016 and 928-4561/65 local 262.

D. Bid documents shall be issued to eligible bidders only upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00

E. Bid security/deposits shall be in the form of cash, manager's or cashier's check only.

F. The provisions of the IRR of EO 40 shall govern all particulars relative to registration, eligibility screening, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract.

G. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any minor defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 6 & 13, 2003)

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9th Leg
Nov. 19-23, 2003
10:00am-7:00pm
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Philippine Daily Inquirer Classifieds
Kasalang Filipino Supplement

On November 23, 2003, Philippine Daily Inquirer Classifieds presents the Kasalang Filipino Supplement -- a wedding special featuring helpful wedding planning articles and listings of the best wedding products and services in the country.

Be part of the Kasalang Filipino Supplement! For more details, please contact Kasal.com at (632) 415-9249, 416-1670, 365-5510; fax: (632) 414-3596; e-mail: info@kasal.com.

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1/8 Page Php 6,750

Early bird Specials
Less 10% on or before July 31, 2003
Less 5& on or before August 31, 2003

Wedding Supplier Directory Page
Supplier Listing Php 1,600
(5 cm. x 3 cm.)

Barbie stars in her third movie, 'Barbie of Swan Lake'

AFTER two sensational movies, "Barbie in the Nutcracker" and "Barbie as Rapunzel", Mattel's Barbie doll comes out again as she enchants audiences with her third movie, "Barbie of Swan Lake". This computer-animated movie, which was based on the timeless 19th century fairy tale, stars Barbie as Odette, the brave young girl who is trapped in an enchanted forest after Rothbart, the evil wizard, casts a spell on her and turns her into a swan. With the help of true love and friends, as well as through the power of self-confidence and determination, she was able to rise above Rothbart's evil spell and break free from the forest.

With more products and expanded categories than Barbie doll's first two movies, the world of Barbie of Swan Lake displays a delightful collection of fashion dolls, accessories, and licensed products.

Barbie of Swan Lake continues the longstanding commitment of Barbie movies, which is not only to entertain children with fairy tale and make believe, but also expose them to the breathtaking world of the arts. Barbie in the Nutcracker presents classical ballet, while Barbie as Rapunzel exposed girls to the world of visual arts. Barbie of Swan Lake captivates audience with classical dance and music

Last October, Richwell Trading Corporation, the official distributor of Mattel's Barbie dolls in the Philippines, in cooperation with Tender Care and Magic 89.9, held a series of exciting events to present Barbie of Swan Lake to little girls in the Philippines. The Swan Lake Fantasy Campaign was launched at Toy Kingdom Megamall last Oct. 5, with the official ribbon cutting of Toy Kingdom's Play Area, with Lucy Torres-Gomez and Tweetie de Leon-Gonzales as guests. On the same day, they held a movie premier of Barbie of Swan Lake and gave away prizes. They brought the magic of Swan Lake by holding another movie premier at Toy Kingdom Southmall last Oct. 18.

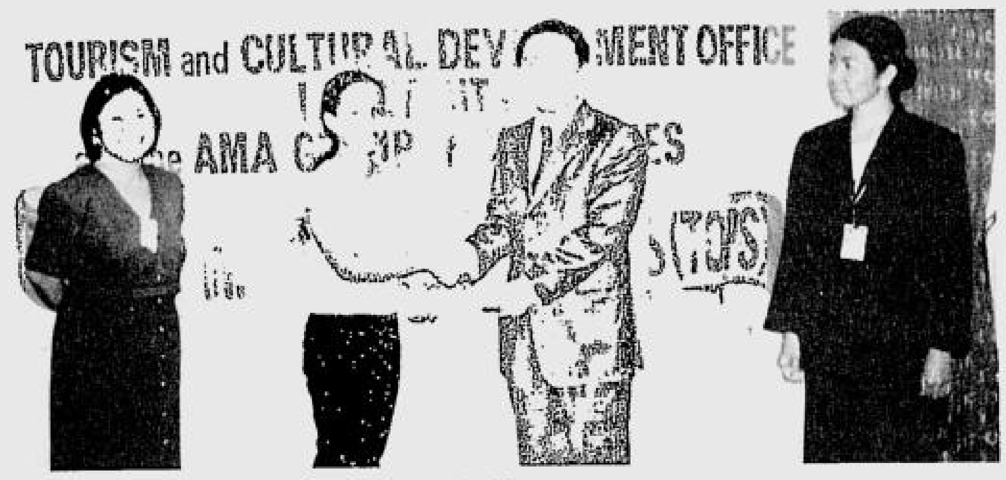
To give the campaign a memorable and entertaining conclusion, Richwell Trading Corp., together with Toy Kingdom, Tender Care, and Magic 89.8, organized a Swan Lake Masquerade Party at Toy Kingdom SM Megamall last Oct. 26. Hundreds of kids joined the party. More than sixty charming kids (from seven months old to twelve years old) joined the costume party and showed up dressed as angels, fairy tale characters, anime characters, animals, superheroes, vampires, and most especially, as characters of Barbie of Swan Lake movie. Adorable little girl Daphne Tiara Limsoc came as Princess Jasmine of Aladdin, and in her pink dress and pointed shoes, bagged the Best in Costume for Girls. Crowd favorite James Groen's version of Peter Pan, both costume and liveliness, caught the judges' eye and went home with the Best in Costume for Boys award while Ma. Celina Guillermo bested all other pretty little girls who came as the Swan Lake Princess as she strutted along the catwalk in her enchanting gown and confetti effects.

Catch more of Barbie and enjoy face painting, art galore, movie galore, and kiddie salons in her Interactive Mall Tours on Nov. 9 at Robinson's Ermita, Nov. 15 at SM Megamall, Nov. 23 at Robinson's Galleria, and December 13 at the World Trade Center. Watch out for Barbie Fan's Club's Christmas Party on Dec. 14, 2 to 6pm at Rustan's Makati. For more details and inquiries, visit or call Richwell Trading Corporation at #25 Quezon Ave., Quezon City with telephone numbers 732-5141 to 47 loc.210 and 211.

SHOWN during the Swan Lake Masquerade Party are Cheer Morales and Graciuos Trabajo of Richwell Trading Corp; Ma. Celina Guillermo, Barbie Image Model as Odette of Barbie of Swan Lake; James Groen; Rona Nieva of Toy Kingdom; Olga Gonao, DTI Representative; Bernie Ma Mon Luk and Brenda Lim of Toy Kingdom; and (seated) Daphne Tiara Limsoc with father.

JUNIOR INQUIRER INVADES WOODROSE

Last Nov. 7, the Junior Inquirer staff trooped to Woodrose to launch the first ever Junior Inquirer Inter-School Writing Competition and Annual Awards. Shown are the 7th graders posing with Guyito, Junior Inquirer's official mascot.


TOURISM and CULTUR AL DEV MENT OFFICE
AMA

FREE EDUCATION TO PASAY YOUTH

Amable Aguiluz IX (2nd from right), president of the AMA Education System and honorary chair of the board of judges in the Search for the Most Outstanding Students of Pasay City, awarded scholarship grants to one of the chosen winners. The search is a yearly project of the Perlas Pasay Jaycees Inc, in cooperation with the Department of Education, the Tourism and Cultural Development Office of Pasay City and the AMA Education System. A total of 10 full education grants worth more than 3.3 million pesos were given during a simple ceremony attended by the awardees, their parents and representatives from the Perlas Pasay Jaycees.

PHILAM PLANS HOLDS AGENCY MANAGERS CONFERENCE

Philam Plans agency managers recently attended a 3-day conference at the Meralco Management and Leadership Development Center in Antipolo City. In photo, first vice president for sales and marketing Roland Gaerlan presents a certificate of appreciation to Philamlife sales awardee and Million Dollar Round Table member Estela Belen, a speaker during the conference.

SBCards launches 'Win A Million, Spend A Million'

A LUCKY Security Bank MasterCard holder is on line to win a whopping P1 million cash credit come January 2004.

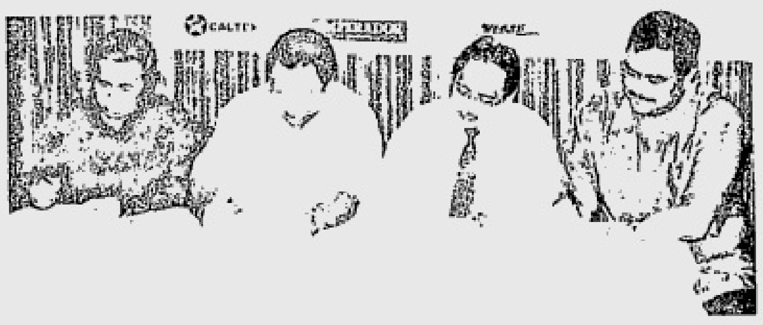
SBCards, the credit card arm of Security Bank and issuer of MasterCard, has just launched its "Win A Million, Spend A Million" raffle.

This means that until January 31, 2004, a Security Bank MasterCard holder has a chance to start his New Year virtually as a millionaire.

"This is our way of offering our MasterCard holders a shot at the good life by giving them a chance to win P1 million shopping credits and, at the same time, chalk up P20,000 shopping credits from our monthly raffle draws," Jackie Papa, SBCards business development group head, said.

How can an SB MasterCard holder join this promo? Very easy. One of either two ways: card application and card usage. First, all those who submit Security Bank MasterCard application forms, get approved, and activated within the promo period will be given a raffle number. SBCards will issue to a Primary Cardholder a raffle number for every enrolled and activated supplementary card. Those interested may secure their application form from any Security Bank branch. After filling it up, you may either submit it at any Security Bank branch or mail it to SBCards Corporation at 114 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Usage means that a minimum of P500 purchase using a Security Bank MasterCard will qualify the cardholder to join the raffle.

For cardholders, there will be five monthly winners, also for six months, each romping off with P20,000 cash credits. The Grand Prize draw is scheduled on February 16, 2004. The Grand prize winner will be entitled to a cash credit of P100,000 for the next ten months, for a total of P1 million in cash credits. For inquiries, call 887-91-77.



THE PHILIPPINE AD CONGRESS SPORTS EVENT

The 18th AdCongress Golf Tournament presented by Globe Telecom and RPN-9 will be held at the challenging and picturesque Jack Nicklaus designed 18 holes, par 69 golf course of the Camp John Hay Golf and Country Club in Baguio city on Nov. 21. The 18th PAC chair Gabby Lopez, Adboard chair Cerge Remonde, Baguio City Mayor Vergara and Congressman Dunogan will make the ceremonial tee at 7 a.m. before the start of the shot-gun tee-off for the first to register 110 golfing delegates and sponsors of the AdCongress golf tournament. Shown in photo signing the partnership agreement for Globe Telecom and RPN-9 are Carlo Llave, chair of the 18th PAC sports committee and Jones Campos, head public relations of Globe Télecom, and Bill Carlos, AVP sales of RPN-9 (left) and Amado Reyes of Globe Telecom (right).

Clips

Shaolin XXX-treme

SEE LIVE hand-to-hand combat, duels, swordfights and extreme shaolin action in Shaolin XXX-treme Exciting Exhibition at the SM Supermalls from Nov. 10 to Dec. 18. Catch 6 top calibre shaolin masters from the Dengfeng Shaolin Epo Wushu Vocational School in He Lan province of China demonstrate the science and discipline of shaolin through martial arts and other shaolin techniques. The Shaolin XXX-treme Exciting Exhibition will be staging three (3) to four (4) performances daily on the following schedules: SM City Bacoor on Nov. 10 to 13; SM City North EDSA on Nov. 15 to 19; SM City Lucena on Nov. 20 to 23; SM Megamall on Nov. 24 to 27; SM City Marilao on Dec. 1 to 6; SM City Manila on Dec. 7 to 11; and SM City Davao on Dec. 14 to 18.

Nu Skin's success seminar

NU SKIN Inc will hold its success seminar today, 6 p.m., at the Music Museum in Greenhills, San Juan. Armed with the theme 'Cruisin to the Top', this event is a celebration of Nu Skin's resilience in the market and continued success. Also during the event, Nu Skin will unveil its latest products as well as discuss the company's new sales incentive program. Tickets are available at all Nu Skin Walk-in Centers, priced at P150 for distributors and P50 for guests. The tickets will also be honored as passes to Pharmex Health forum. For more information call 689-0333.

Me magazine launch

REDISCOVER yourself. Nourish your spirit and indulge in the good life as Me magazine, a prestige publication of Mega Magazines & Publications Inc (MMPI) celebrates the birth of the new woman via a grand launch today at The Loft in Rockwell, Makati City. It is set to be one great girls' night out filled with a fun fusion of food, entertainment and fashion. The new you starts with Me magazine. Me magazine is available in all leading bookstores and newsstands nationwide. For more information call 631-2859.

WFMC nat'l assembly

OVER 200 Well-Family Midwife Clinic (WFMC) managers from all over the country are expected to attend the franchise network's 2nd national assembly on Nov. 13 to 14 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City. With the working theme "Magkaisa! Atin Ito!" the event will likewise serve as a venue in honoring the excellent performance of the midwife-entrepreneurs through the WFMC Diamond Awards. A series of lectures from respected experts in the field of midwifery and business has also been scheduled during the event. For inquiries, call the JSI Research and Training Institute Inc at 371-9717, 373-4097 or 410-3997, visit the website at www.jsitango.com.

Luxury Motor Show 2003

33RD Street Production will stage its 2nd Luxury Motor Show slated on Nov. 13 to 15 at the Activity Center, Alabang Town Center. The event showcases the latest in luxury cars, sports cars and sports utility vehicles, incorporating auto parts accessories, car entertainment and car security. Get a glimpse of what's the latest in the gathering of the most prestigious brands in the Philippines car market. For more information, call 806-5372/0920-8290520 or email prod33rd@info.com.ph.

Parol, X'mas tree contest

CLOSE to half a million in cash prizes are at stake as Star City holds a parol and Christmas tree competition which are part of the "Pamaskong Aliwan", slated on Dec. 4 to 6. participants have until today to register for free and submit their creations that will be displayed along Vicente Sotto St., CCP Complex all throughout the Christmas season. Any kind of material may be used for entries in both competitions. Parol entries must not exceed 10 feet in length, width or height while Christmas tree entries must not exceed 15 feet in height. For more information, call 832-6228 and 40.

Diners Club provides excellent service in Naia

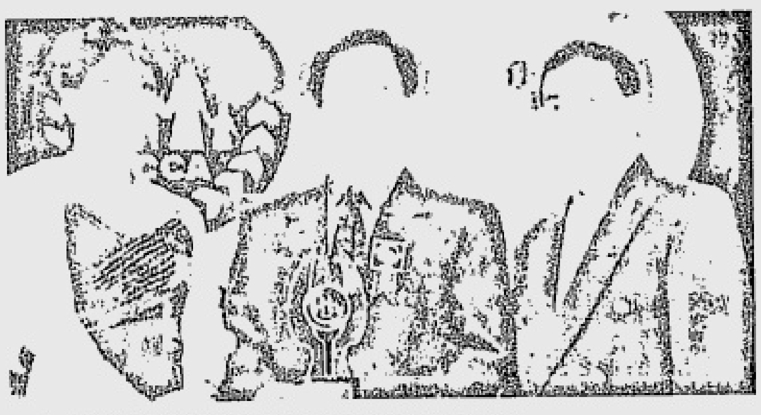
QUISUMBING, a systems analyst for a multinational company who had an early flight to Singapore to catch at eight in the morning had to be at the Naia at 6 a.m. Stuck in the early morning traffic jam in Pasay, his secretary called him on his mobile phone to inform him that the progress report he had been waiting for had already been sent to his e-mail address and that he just needed to make copies of it for his presentation to the regional directors at 12 noon that same day in Singapore. He knew exactly what to do.

After passing through immigration, he hurriedly proceeded to Diners Club's Club Lounge at Club Manila located at the fourth floor of the Departure Area in Naia 1.

"By being a Diners Club Cardholder, I was able to access my e-mail for free and only paid a minimal amount for photocopying my presentation slides. The first two pages were even given to me for free. What's more is that I was able to enter the lounge for free just by being a Diners Club Cardholder!" Mr. Quisumbing says.

All Diners Club Cardholders enjoy free entrance to Club Manila and enjoy discounts in chargeable services, such as massage services, use of their business facilities and long distance calls. When traveling abroad, Diners Club Cardholders also have access to all Diners Club Airport and Business Lounges all over the world at no cost as well. Visit www.dinersclub.com for a complete listing.

Club Manila is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. For inquiries, call Diners Club's 24-Hour Club Phone at 887-9188.

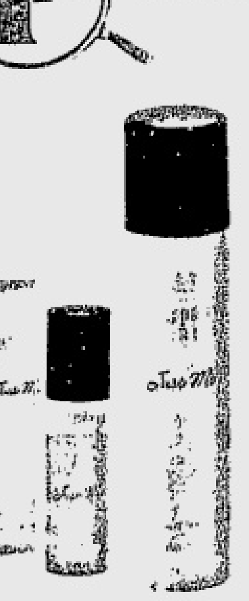


MAX'S RESTAURANT BAGS AWARD

Max's Restaurant was recently awarded as Outstanding Filipino Restaurant by the National Consumers Affairs Foundation and the Family Consumers Choice Awards committee. The award was given in recognition of Max's Restaurant's exemplary product excellence based on opinion surveys and evaluation benefiting the Filipino families and the general public during the 11th Annual Handog sa Pamilyang Pilipino. Robert Campos, Max's Franchising Inc's chief operating officer received the trophy from Edith Lim, awards committee and Jonathan Navea, project chair.

Product FILES

Celebrity Secrets Just Me fragrance



THE FRAGRANCE of Celebrity Secrets Just Me is a heady combination of lively, citrusy bergamot with fruity and floral scents of lemon, rose, waterflower and amber. Celebrity Secrets Just Me body spray makes it easy to spray on the charm. The handy fragrance rollete is a convenient way of enjoying this fruity and floral scent at any time of the day. Now you can either spray on or roll on the fragrance to carry on during the day with a smile on your face. Celebrity Secrets Just Me is available exclusively at Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines and authorized Sara Lee Dealers nationwide. For inquiries, call 810-5402, email customer.relations@saraleedirectselling.ph.

PHILCONSTRUCT 2003
Innovations. Solutions. Opportunities.

The Philippine International Construction Material & Equipment Exhibition

Nov. 13 to 16, 2003
10 a.m. to 7 p.m., World Trade Center, Metro Manila

IN behalf of the Officers, the Board of Directors and the entire membership of the Philippine Constructors Association Inc. (PCA), I take this opportunity to welcome each and everyone to The Philippine International Construction Materials and Equipment Exhibition, the Philconstruct 2003, from the 13th to the 16th of November 2003 at the World Trade Center Manila and the 10th staging of our Technology Forum Seminar Series, the Technoforum 2003 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from Nov. 13 to 15.

Technoforum 2003 as conceptualized by its chairman, PCA 2nd Vice President Levy Espiritu, will surely bring together a huge number of construction professionals together, considering the wide range of topics of for discussion, notable of which are the FIDIC Standard Conditions of Contracts, the latest developments in Government Procurement of goods and services, global trends in urban planning and special bridge design ideas.

With the permanent theme of "Innovations, Solutions and Opportunities", the Philconstruct series together with the Technoforum series, shall continue to be the main idea vehicles of the PCA in pursuit of its mission, that of being an agent of change towards the continues and sustainable developments of the levels of standards of practice of the construction industry to benefit primarily the Filipino people, the Philippines and ultimately the world.

We may be facing difficulties now but the PCA remains steadfast in its resolve to continue to work for a better tomorrow. It is the least it can do for the future generations of Filipinos to come.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas.

Emilio F. Mumbocon
President

CONGRATULATIONS to the officers and staff of the Philippine Constructors Association Inc. (PCA) for staging this worthwhile event - the Philippine International Construction Materials and Equipment Exhibition (Philconstruct 2003).

This event will hopefully promote the value and quality of our products and enable members of your industry to share their knowledge with each other. Diffusion of knowledge is truly necessary towards the discovery of alternative products and new ways that will give the industry a boost.

Your challenge today is how to create greater value for your customer and earn in the process. To thrive, you must always have an effective strategy to meet your customers' changing needs and cope with constant competition.

This is why the government aggressively works towards providing an environment that will encourage your continuous economic value creation. It recognizes that in order for firms to become more productive, and growth potential enhanced.

As the government strives to do its part, let me encourage your members to do the same by continuing to share innovations and solutions with one another. Our becoming globally competitive lies in aiming for and achieving the highest levels of excellence possible.

ROMULO L. NERI
Secretary
Socio-Economic Planning

MY warmest congratulations to the organizers, participants and guests to the Philippine International Construction Materials and Equipment Exhibition (Philconstruct) 2003 and Technology Forum 2003.

DPWH takes pride in this annual effort of the Philippine Constructors Association Inc. (PCA) to showcase and promote the world-class and innovative capabilities of the country's construction industry that is internationally at par.

The Philippine construction sector has always been an active partner of the President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administration in realizing the goal of a strong republic with the construction of necessary infrastructure facilities that would pump-prime the economy.

As head of the state's engineering arm, I would like to congratulate the local construction industry for contributing much in the development of our country.

With this, I wish this exposition all the best and may PCA continue this noteworthy undertaking in the more years to come.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

FLORANTE SORIQUEZ
Acting Secretary

THE DEPARTMENT of Budget and Management is proud to be a part of the 13th Philippine International Construction Materials and Equipment Exhibition (Philconstruct 2003) at the World Trade Center in Metro Manila.

The Philippines, being a signatory to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and later, to the General Agreement on Trades and Services (GATS), should do well to prepare for the eventual globalization and liberalization of its building and construction industry. And the time to prepare, we believe, is now.

We therefore commend the Philippine Constructors Associations (PCA) for staging Philconstruct 2003, which not only gathers the best products, services and equipment in various aspects of building, design and construction; it also achieved the momentous task of bringing over respected individuals to impart the latest in information technology and management through the Technoforum 2003 seminar series.

The DBM appreciates, in particular, the PCA's efforts to highlight vital government services, such as developments in electronic procurement, in the Technoforum 2003.

Welcome to Philiconstruct 2003.

EMILIA T. BONCODIN
Secretary
Department of Budget and Management

PCA stages Philconstruct 2003

ALL roads lead to the World Trade Center Metro Manila today as the Philippine Constructors Association (PCA) stages its latest exhibit dubbed "Philconstruct 2003" or "The Philippine International Construction Materials and Equipment Exhibition."

The expo, held annually as part of the anniversary of PCA, runs until Nov. 16 and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Philconstruct is the longest and the most comprehensive international construction trade show in the Philippines for the past 12 years. It is managed this year by L.A. Ducut & Co. and is organized for the first time by PCA itself.

"We have conceptualized Philconstruct 2003 as a comprehensive showcase of products and services, featuring everything a builder needs-from the first drawing to the last screw," says engineer Jorge A. Consunji, Philconstruct 2003 chair and president and CEO of D.M. Consunji Inc.

According to Consunji, the exhibit follows the theme "Innovations, Solutions, Opportunities," which gathers under one roof a wide range of construction products-construction equipment, structural finishing brands, designing tools and gadgets, architectural and engineering software and reference materials. Also joining the exhibition are real estate companies, financing firms, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

"This is in line with PCA's commitment to create an ideal venue conducive to exploring business opportunities, innovations and solutions in terms of products, technology and ex-

PCA/B10

> "We have conceptualized Philconstruct 2003 as a comprehensive showcase of products and services, featuring everything a builder needs-from the first drawing to the last screw

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PHILCONSTRUCT
2003

The Philippine
International Construction Materials
& Equipment Exhibition

PCA stages Philconstruct 2003

From page B9

> The seminars will be divided into the technology series, the equipment series, the I.T. series and the management series

pertise which promote the industry's growth and development," says PCA executive director Manolito P. Madrasto.

For his part, PCA president Emilio J. Tumbocon says "Philconstruct 2003" promises to be a well-balanced trade show that is most appealing to its target market. "PCA here in itself would be one of your target markets. Aside from being the oldest trade organization in the country, its wide membership nationwide, affiliation with trade related international organizations and alliances among its colleagues, business partners and government agencies in the industry translates to quality trade visitor attendance," adds Tumbocon.

The event will surely connect you to over 30,000 trade visitors and buyers composed of (1) construction trade professionals (architects, contractors, engineers, designers, project/construction managers); (2) property owners and developers; (3) investors; (4) building administrators; (5) government agencies; (6) local and foreign suppliers and manufacturers; (7) agents/distributors/dealers; (8) DIY market, and; (9) the academe.

Held in conjunction with the exhibit is a series of seminars known collectively as "Technoforum."

"Technoforum is also anchored on the "Philconstruct 2003" theme of 'Innovations, Solutions, Opportunities,'" says Consunji. "Innovations and solutions because over 5,000 global brands will be featured, and opportunities because the exhibitors will be able to interact with the more than 30,000 major industry players and visitors who are expected to attend the expo," he adds.

The seminars will be divided into the technology series, the equipment series, the I.T. series and the management series.

For the management series, the PCA and the Council of Engineering Consultants of the Philippines (Cecophil) will bring in experts from the Federation Internationale Des Ingenieurs-Conseils (Fidic) headquarters in Switzerland to discuss the four standards forms of contract.

The Fidic, an international group of consulting engineers, developed the four universally employed standard conditions of contracts. These contracts have become the standard mode and are widely used worldwide. These are known simply as the Red Book ("Conditions of Contract for Construction"), the Yellow Book ("Conditions of Contract for Plant and Design Build"), the Silver Book ("Conditions of Contract for Engineer Procure Construct") and the Green Book (short form of contract). The Fidic seminar is the only seminar that is being done for the Asia-Pacific this year.

The second installment of the Technoforum, the technology series, will features speakers from the American Concrete Institute, who will discuss high strength concrete technology. Architect Felino "Jun" Palafox of Palafox Associates will tackle global trends in urban planning and architecture. Leighton Contractors Philippines Inc. development and engineering managers Stuart Bowman will expound on the state of the art technologies in highways construction, while Hiroo Jin of JFE Engineering Corp. will give a talk on special bridge designs.

Meanwhile, the Association of Carriers and Equipment Lessors Inc. (Acel) takes over for the equipment series, which will tackle risk management and basic rigging principles as well as technology solutions in equipment management. This will be followed by German company Robert Bosch's presentation on the use

PCA/B11

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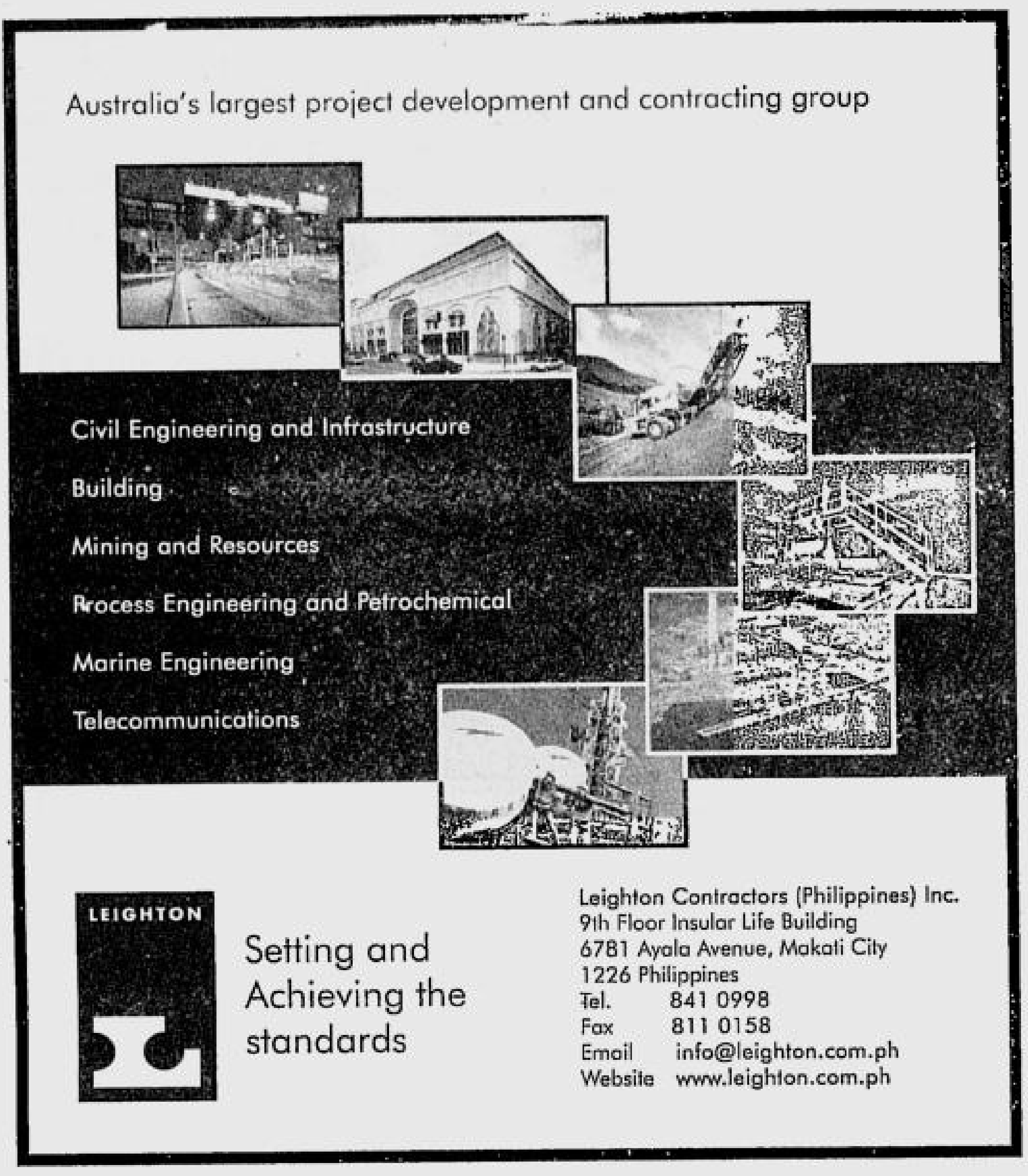
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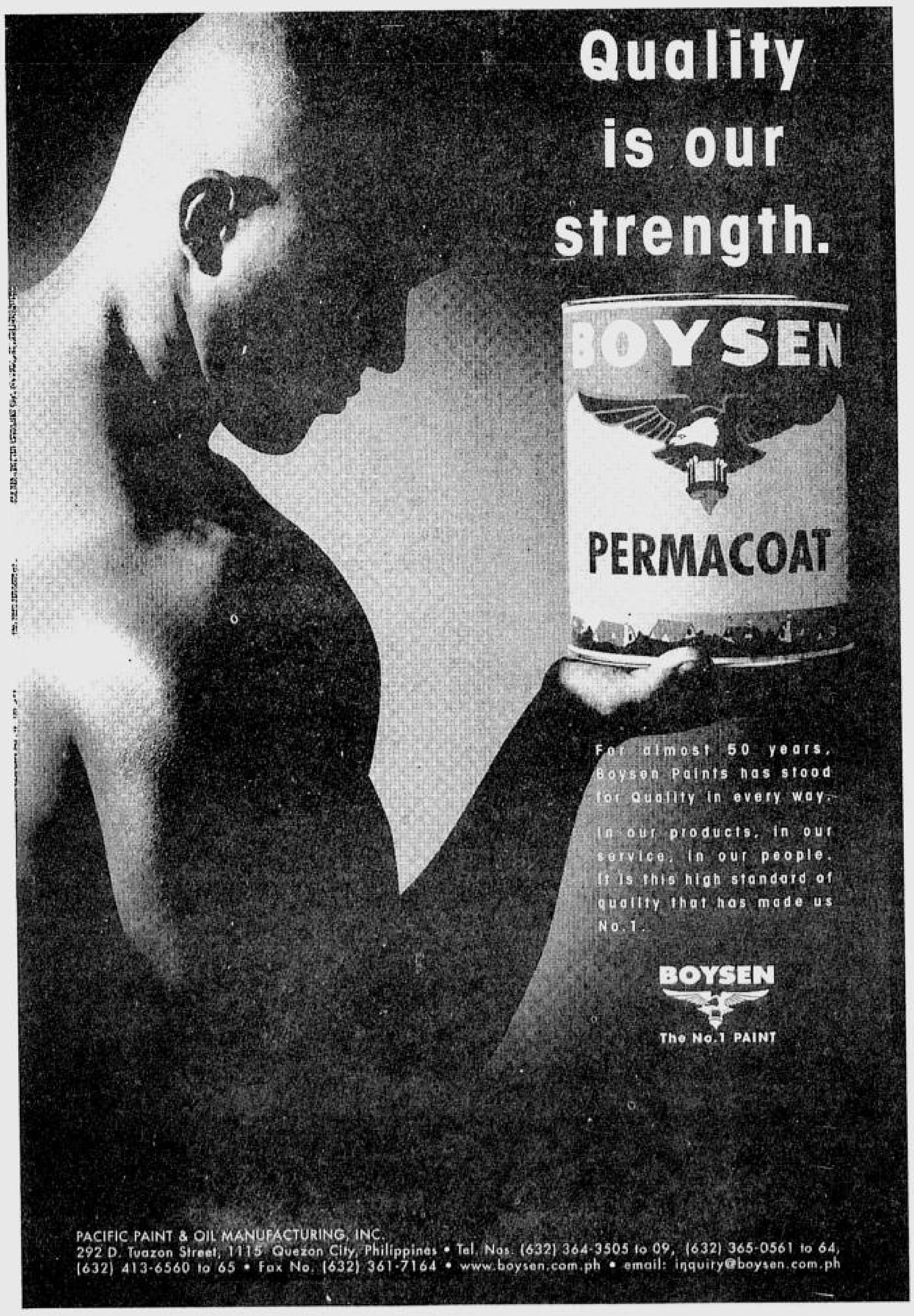
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Innovations. Solutions. Opportunities.

The Philippine International Construction Material & Equipment Exhibition

Nov. 13 to 16, 2003
10 a.m. to 7 p.m., World Trade Center, Metro Manila

PCA stages Philconstruct 2003

From page B10

of power tools.

The I.T. Series, which will conclude the Technoforum, will bring together Budget and Management Assistant Secretary Eduardo Obida, Estanislao Granado, Elizabeth Yap and Dianne Wacker for a discussion on new developments in government procurement, including RA 9184 and the government e-procurement system. Roly Socorro of JGC Philippines will also discuss 3D engineering technology and plant visualization.

Philconstruct will offer many services, and product and equipment lines that people will need to understand how to use them. That's why Philconstruct won't be complete without the Technoforum," says engineer Liberito Espiritu, Technoforum 2003 chair. *Joel V. Nigos*

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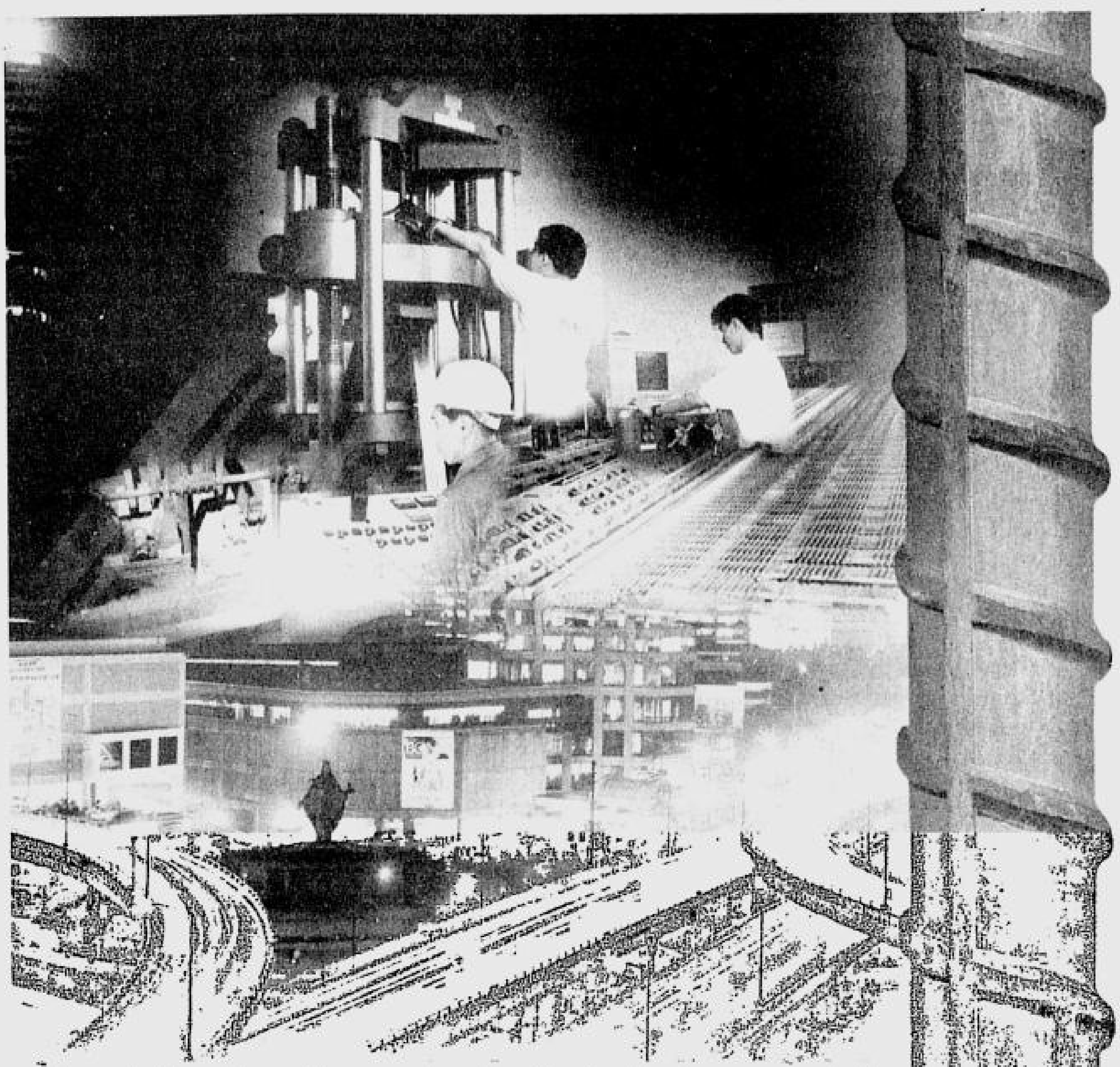

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People, Events & Products

UMC hailed for its sales feat

UNIVERSAL Motors Corporation (UMC), assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles, recently won another distinction from its mother company- Nissan Motor Ltd. Japan.

The award tagged as the "Executive Vice President's Award" was bestowed to UMC for its outstanding sales performance for the year 2002. UMC is the only distributor in Asia , from among over 100 members of the Nissan Global Network, to be given this recognition for achieving "best sales ever". UMC's sales supremacy in the local market is proof of the unwavering fidelity and product satisfaction of its V.I.P. clientele to the Nissan brand. Aside from banking on its world-class Nissan light commercial vehicles, the firm also continues to strive for excellence in customer-service and recognizes its strong team of personnel as one of its "assets", together with the loyalty of its customers that have helped sustained the company and clinched market leadership in the segments it competes in.

The formal awarding ceremony held in Japan was witnessed by over 100 Nissan Distributors worldwide together with their top executives. Norio Matsumura, EVP of Nissan Motor Ltd., Japan, handed over the prestigious EVP award trophy to Elizabeth H. Lee, UMC's SVP for Marketing . Also present during the awarding was Nissan Motors Ltd. Japan's CEO and President, Carlos Ghosn and UMC President, Richard Lee.

FROM left are: UMC president Richard Lee; Nissan Motor Ltd Japan CEO and president Carlos Ghosn; UMC's SVP for marketing Elizabeth Lee

This is the second time that Universal Motors was conferred with such distinction . Last year, UMC also grabbed the same title, becoming the first Asian distributor ever to be recognized with an EVP award by the Japanese automotive giant.

The feat adds to UMC's accomplishments that speak of its unparalled success in the Philippine automotive industry. Having withstood stiff market competition, periodic economic crises and other domestic upheavals that hence contributed to a more volatile automotive market, UMC remains a leading independent industry player on the success of its Nissan LCVs like the Frontier pickup , Urvans & Patrols.

ACEL SUPPORTS PHILCONSTRUCT

The Association of Carriers and Equipment Lessors Inc (Acel) has forged anew its full support to the Philippine Constructors Association Inc (PCA) in staging the country's most comprehensive international construction trade show, Philconstruct 2003, on Nov. 13 to 16 at the World Trade Center. Acel as one of the co-operating agencies of Philconstruct 2003 has been endorsing the exhibit to its members for their participation as exhibitors and visitors. Shown at the signing of the agreement are (seated from left): PCA 1st vice president and Philconstruct 2003 chair engineer Jorge Consunji; Acel public relations officer Eric Yulo; PCA president engineer Emilio Tumbocon. Standing (from left) are: PCA executive director Manolito Madrasto; Philconstruct 2003 exhibit manager LA Ducut and Company Inc managing director Lilibeth Abais and Acel corporate auditor Lito Garcia.

STARBUCKS COFFEE

STARBUCKS DOUBLESHOT 'SHAKEOLOGY' GRAND FINALS DELIGHTS COFFEE LOVERS

Mall goers were shaken and surprises with a very unique Starbucks Experience with the Starbucks DoubleShot Iced Shaken Espresso 'Shakeology' competition grand finals held at the Greenbelt 3 fountain area in Ayala Center, Makati City. Eight talented baristas from various Starbucks Coffee shops competed for the distinction of being the best Starbucks 'Shakeologist in the Philippines and representing the country in the Starbucks Asia-Pacific 'Shakeology' regional competition. 'Shakeology is a one of a kind competition among Starbucks baristas on the art of preparing and serving the new Starbucks DoubleShot Iced Shaken Espresso. The event was the culmination of a month-long search for the best among the best local Starbucks baristas. Krissean Buena, a barista from the Northeast Greenhills store was declared the overall winner. She did a lively Latin-inspired production number that delighted the audience. Shown in photo are Krissean Buena with TV personality Ria Tanjuatco who hosted the program and Dino Azcona, store operations manager of Rustans Coffee.

Pretty in the pink of health

THE WAY to a man's heart is through your stomach - what you eat affects your disposition and your looks. If you want to be truly beautiful inside and out, here's the lowdown on how you can look good by staying healthy.

1. De-stress your tresses. To have a truly glorious crown of hair, eat right. Green, leafy vegetables and yogurt that's rich in calcium and protein help give the hair a healthy sheen. 2. Keen about skin. Treat your face gently by avoiding harsh soaps that can strip your skin of natural moisture. Keep your skin hydrated with mineral oil, lanolin or glycerin. You can even apply yogurt as a facial mask to get rid of pimples and black heads. Lots of water, veggies and fruits are blessings for the skin. 3. Love your heart. Be heart smart - lead a stress-free life and stick to a balanced diet. 4. Tummy TLC. Do not deprive your body of food and essential nutrients by going on a crash diet. Eat five hours to boost your energy and to keep the metabolism up. 5. Eat Nestle 0 percent fat hi-calcium yogurt with Vitamin E daily. It helps you to achieve total beauty. Every cup of this yogurt holds many wonderful benefits for the body. It has the antioxidant Vitamin E that improves blood circulation and promotes tissue repair for healthy skin and hair. It also has a hi-calcium content that keeps the bones and teeth strong and helps prevent osteoporosis. The millions of live friendly bacteria in the yogurt adhere to the walls of the intestines and maintain the equilibrium of the intestinal system. Make Nestle 0 percent fat hi-calcium yogurt with Vitamin E a daily habit. You can get it at the chilled section of your favorite supermarket outlet.

BUSINESS

NSC rehab to start in March

By Michelle V. Remo

THE REHABILITATION of National Steel Corp. is seen to begin in March 2004 as talks between Global Infrastructure Holdings Ltd. (GIHL) and the negotiating team of NSC's creditor banks are progressing smoothly.

This was the statement made by Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II who also reported that creditor banks, led by the Philippine National Bank, and GIHL were now discussing how to improve the term of the latter's offer to rehabilitate NSC, particularly in terms of shortening the payment term.

GIHL, which is a unit of the Ispat Group of India, had offered P13 billion for NSC to be paid over 10 years.

GIHL's P13-billion offer bested the that of the only other bidder, LNM Holdings, which offered P7 billion.

Roxas said the banks were giving the talks with GIHL 90 days to complete. Upon signing of the necessary contract, GIHL may immediately assume possession of the plant and start pre-rehabilitation activities.

He said he was hoping the two parties would be able to strike a deal within the said period in order to immediately begin NSC's re-operation and put back to work at least 500 former employees of NSC.

Roxas said the reopening of NSC would help improve the business sentiment in the country as it would indicate confidence of foreign investors in doing business here.

"A big ticket project will embolden investors to go ahead with their investment plans in the first semester of 2004," Roxas said in a statement.

Maso urges gov't to sue Fraport AG

THE GOVERNMENT was urged to sue Fraport AG for its alleged violations of the Anti-Dummy law and make the German firm face at least $323 million in fines.

The MIAA-Naia Association of Service Operators (Maso) said it believed that the government would have a strong case against Fraport on this issue because the German airport concessionaire had indirectly admitted that it owned more than 40 percent of the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco).

The Constitute prohibits foreigner from owning more than 40 percent of public utilities. They are also prohibited from using Filipino entities to act as their dummies.

Should the case be pursued, the government's commitment to pay $323-million in just compensation to Piatco consortium could be offset by the penalty on Fraport.

According to Maso chair Perfecto Yasay Jr., by claiming to have invested $425 million in Piatco, which is significantly higher than the Cheng group's $10.6 million, Fraport admitted that it owned majority share of Piatco. He added that Fraport had formally declared in its complaint filed with the World Bank's International Commission on the Settlement of Investment Disputes (Icsid) that it had invested that amount in Piatco.

Yasay also said Fraport had indirectly admitted that it used the Cheng group as its dummy when the German firm said the Chengs were the ones who have management control of Piatco. *Michelle V. Remo*

CebuPac moves to expand market

By Abigail L. Ho

GOKONGWEI-OWNED Cebu Pacific Air is aggressively pursuing measures aimed at increasing its share of the domestic aviation market, even while eyeing several new international destinations to add to the list of countries it serves.

In a news briefing yesterday, Cebu Pacific general manager Danilo Mojica II said traffic on the domestic routes had been good in the past months, with the airline posting an average load factor of around 70 percent.

"Our domestic (business) is doing very well. We're growing at levels significantly higher than we had in the past. Our average load factor is hitting the 70s, and this should go even higher in peak months," he said.

Right now, he said Cebu Pacific had a 37-percent share of the domestic aviation market.

While continuing to beef up its domestic services, Mojica said the airline was eyeing new international destinations as well.

In the meantime, Cebu Pacific yesterday launched the country's first paperless ticketing service that allows passengers to board their flights even without paper tickets.

Cebu Pacific's e-ticketing service is initially available for the Manila-Cebu flights. It will be available for the Manila-Davao route by the first week of December.

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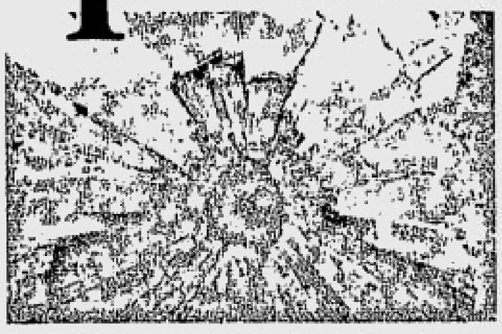
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

SURVIVING IN TRANSIT

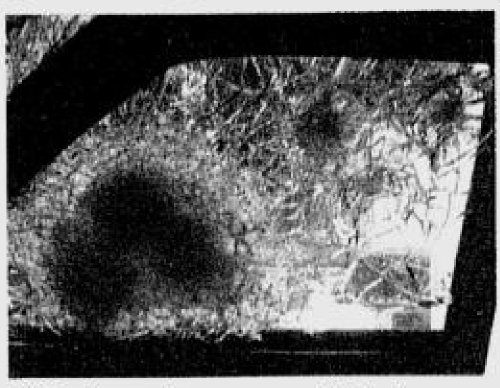
When 'pointblank' gets in between points A and B

Text by Tessa R. Salazar
Photos by Alex P. Loinaz

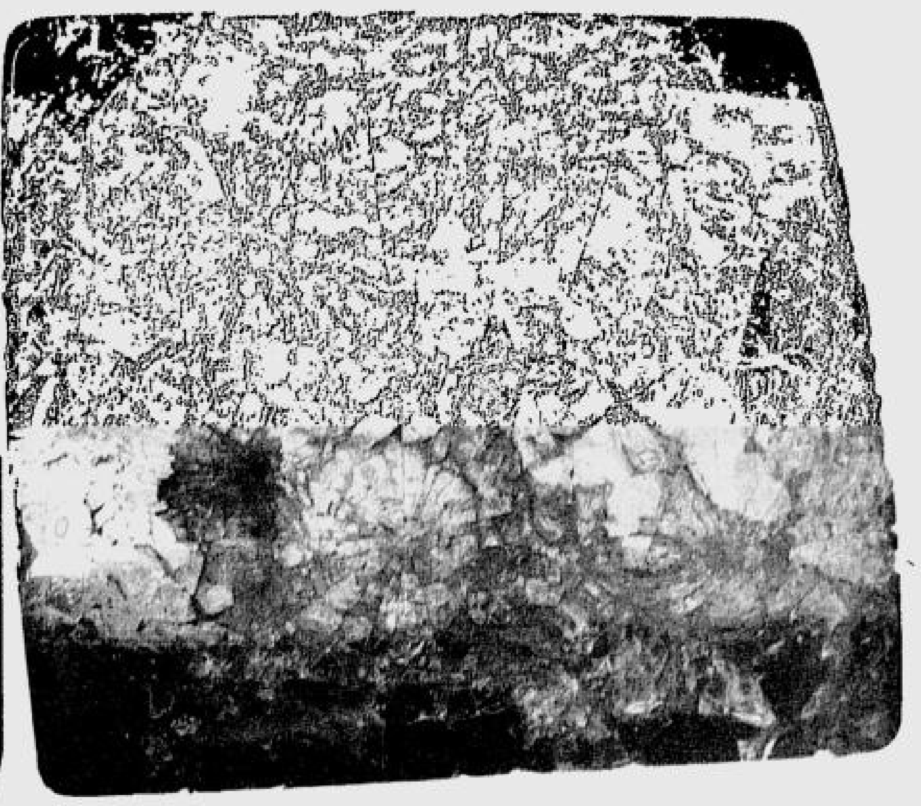
(First of two parts)



PUNCTURED with high powered M16 rifle and handgun shots, this window glass needs protective features like multilayered ballistic glass with polycarbonate inner layer.



THIS glass undergoes several lab tests, simulating worst-case scenario.



LAB technicians do tests by overloading the gun cartridges with more powder than normal, for the bullet to travel at exactly the muzzle velocity.

IF YOU'RE a very important person in society, and your decisions affect a lot of people (whether they like it or not), every moment of your existence is spent exposed to a lot of threats.

Whether those threats are real or not doesn't matter. To those who need you alive, you might want to do yourself a favor and protect yourself at all costs, and make the work of those who want you dead or incapacitated a bit harder.

Nowhere is a VIP most vulnerable than when he or she is in transit—when variables are random, and the threats can either be here or there.

When the most powerful man in the world flew in from the United States and stepped onto Philippine soil recently, his government saw to it that he would travel with the level of protection appropriate for a person of his stature.

In short, President Bush brought with him the best-planned and best-equipped protection the modern world could muster. Aside from flying in the vaunted Air Force One, the official air transport of US presidents, Bush planed in the best armored land vehicles for his entourage.

His Cadillac limousine, for instance, used the highest level of vehicle armoring technology. Its heaviness alone signified the extent of its armor.

If you watched the Bush visit on TV, you would notice the limo's door had to be opened by two burly men before Bush could step out of the car.

We can only speculate on its other technological appurtenances. Rumor has it that this limo even has climate control, so that when a biochemical weapon explodes around the vehicle, this car could seal its occupants from the outside air and use its own oxygen supply. The limo, most likely, could be bomb-proofed as well.

A Suburban 2500 version, which American armoring firm O'Gara Hess & Eisenhardt armored and brought to Yugoslavia for use by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, was virtually unscathed and its occupants, though rattled, were still in good condition during a bomb attack. That armoring firm has been operating in the Philippines since 1998 and has made over a hundred bulletproof and explosion-proof vehicles for Filipino VIPs.

Techno transfer

In 2001, it turned over the technology to its Filipino partners and focused on its European and South American markets where armoring had high demands. (In Sao Paolo, Brazil alone, O'Gara armored 40 units a month. The Philippine demand was, on the average, 40 units a year.)

A recent visit to the local armoring firm now named Exo Armoring Inc. in Mandaluyong found the INQUIRER looking at eight vehicles simultaneously being worked on for shielding of handgun and assault rifle fire.

Surprisingly, we found out that most of its clients came from the business sector (about 80 percent), and only 20 percent were involved in politics.

Protection

The firm says it doesn't sacrifice the luxurious look of the car while armoring the vehicles. It maintains the original fit and finish while ensuring that the passengers are protected even from submachine gun assault.

Protective features include multilayered ballistic glass with polycarbonate inner layer, and perimeter and roof armor with lightweight composite materials.

There is also what the local plant calls as the "running flat tire inserts" that includes a spare tire, an anti-explosion fuel tank, bullet-resistant battery and operable front windows.

The fuse box or the computer box is also coated with armor. Often, armors are overlapped for extra protection.

For handgun protection, there are options for the overlap armor around doors, underbody protection from grenade explosions, and 39-mm thick windshield designed for assault rifle protection.

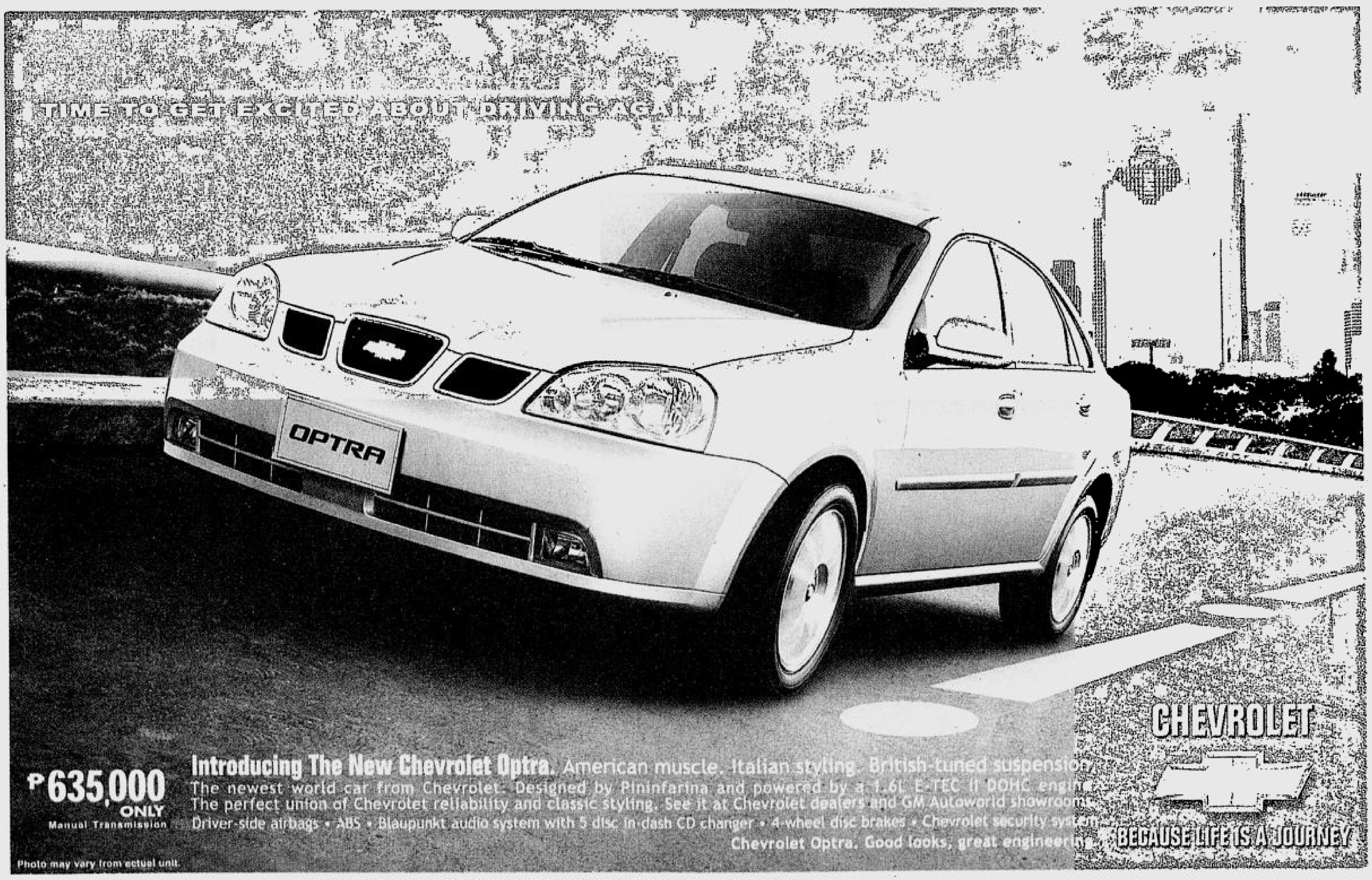
For M16 protection, explosion-proof fuel tanks are standard. This technology was borrowed from the United States, where racing cars added foam inside fuel tanks to eliminate vapors (vapors start explosions by igniting easily). Without vapors, the fuel tanks would not explode.

Exo technicians take out the whole fuel tank and ship it to the States to have it fitted with the special foam. The shipping cost is more than double that of the foam itself, which is not even $500.

'Loaded' with armor

But vehicles literally get "loaded" with all these armors. Thus, not all vehicles can handle the heaviness of armoring. Important requirements include big, powerful engines, sturdy bodies, powerful brakes and suspensions. Others need parts changes to accommodate the vehicle's new body weight.

An armored vehicle can weigh 200 to 300 for handgun, and about 1000 kg for M16 protection. A newly armored 2000-kg Nissan Patrol V6 now weighs 250 kg more—and that's just for handgun protection. We opened the doors and felt the heaviness.



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The sensation of a bullet at Hakone speedway

Text and photos
by Tessa R. Salazar

THE 30-MINUTE bullet train ride to Hakone from Tokyo was a blast. There wasn't much of a view, though, when the train hit 220 kph, and staring at the psychedelic images whizzing by the windows induced fatigue.

Inside the train, the scene was different. The serene atmosphere induced passengers to relax and even doze off.

The high-speed trip was just a prelude to our sojourn with Mitsubishi and its 20 or so vehicles up for test-drives—part of the sidelights of the recently concluded Tokyo Motor Show 2003. The three-diamond logo produces the Lancer Evolution series, and has beat the hell out of competitors in countless rallies.

20 'babies'

Waiting for us up there on the Hakone range were two Pajeros, three Outlanders, four variants of Grandis, eK automobiles, three Colts, Lancer sedan and wagon, and three gorgeous Evo VIIIs. These 20 "babies" reflected their manufacturer's desire to make car designs a sublime matter.

This writer worked her way up to the Evo. Choosing first a red turbo-charged Airtrek mini-SUV 2-liter intercooler turbo charger Outlander, she gathered her map, CDMA cell phone provided by the organizers, and two prepared toll fees, and then set out to complete the Hakone circuit.

ANY indoor venue just couldn't beat the postcard view, open expanse, twisting passes offered by the Hakone highway, and the drive with the Evo VIII (blue evo with nature).

The long, winding stretches of the circuit were easily navigable, with the small Outlander making short work of hairpin turns and sharp curves. The 3-km narrow Mukani Pass, which had a great view of Lake Ashi and Mount Fuji, was navigated with ease.

Not as hard as expected

Driving at the right hand side of the vehicle and on the left side of the road wasn't as hard as the Filipino drivers expected it to be. The fear of colliding with trees or rocks on the left side of the road faded after a few turns.

The other TMS delegates at Makuhari Messe couldn't imagine us doing this. They could open the cars on display and perhaps sit inside and make vroom-vroom sounds. But we were here driving the real thing, and the sounds were the ones the engines made as it devoured the roads. As for this writer, she was running a two-liter, 4WD turbo monster enhanced by a specially tuned Invecs II with sport mode 5-speed automatic transmission. This Outlander was even fitted with up-down sport shifts.

The Airtrek (Outlander) 4G63 intercooler/turbocharged engine seemed to always ask for more. It climbed like a mountain goat, springy and responsive.

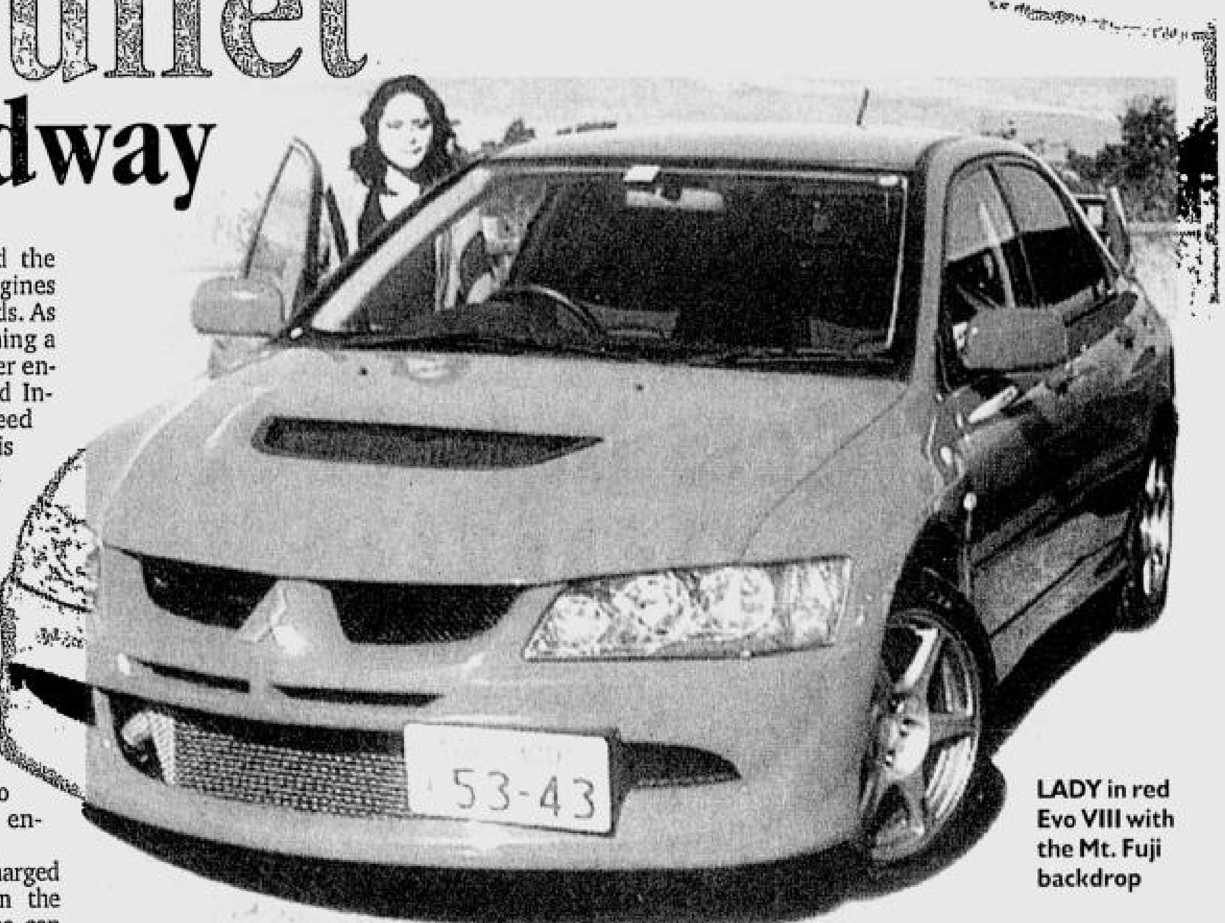
The Outlander, it seems, provides the same boost and gutsy torque—from the low revs to the redline—previously enjoyed by car racers.

Unfortunately, this turbocharged Outlander is not offered in the Philippines. The sportiest one can get with the Outlander here is with the 2.4-L variant.

It was a roller coaster drive to the Hakone Pass. The test-drive with the new Pajero was soon followed by a relaxing cruise with the Grandis, though its power and looks were not to be underestimated. The Grandis sported a new generation 2.4-L Mivec (Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing and lift Electronic Control) engine.

The star of the show

The reward comes to those who wait. After an hour of getting to know the supporting cast, it was this writer's turn to "interview" the star of the show—the Lancer Evolution VIII. How many show-biz reporters can claim to have spent an hour with Tom Cruise or Julia Roberts at their homes? In the same breath, how many motoring journalists can claim to have driven the Evo VIII in its natural habitat?



LADY in red Evo VIII with the Mt. Fuji backdrop

The adrenaline shot up when this writer turned the engine on. The reverse shift was European-inspired, with its gear ring pulled all the way up to the head and stick shift set to the extreme upper left corner.

After shifting to first gear, it was all go. With no convoys, and no one to talk to, she opened the driver's window to hear the Evo VIII hum and talk to her.

This writer stopped at what seemed to be Lake Ashi's breakwaters, and gazed on what looked like a pirate ship and then had her picture taken with the Evo VIII by a Japanese fellow who happened to pass by.

The Evo VIII frowned with impatience. The 4WD turbo wasn't meant to sit still, after all. And this writer obliged. The "interview" continued.

Auto performance icon

Driving the Evo VIII brought back memories of the bullet train. The same ease of speed was felt as she floored the pedal on a straight, open stretch a few kilometers to the second tollgate.

The new 6-speed manual gearbox with close gear ratios could be a stiff ride for some, but surely sportier for enthusiasts. The Evo VIII makers assured of improved handling stability, complemented with a leather grip Momo steering wheel. The dark titanium finish center panel and shift gate and Recaro bucket seats made the Evo VIII look like it was still breaking speed limit even if it was at rest.

Speeding along with the Evo VIII made all other vehicles at the circuit fade back in a blur. Even time flew by in a hurry, and this writer had to make a stopover at the nearest store for some necessities. A group of car enthusiasts couldn't help but make a "panic stop" and rubberneck at the Evo VIII and the gorgeous lady stepping out of it. Well, admit it, the Evo VIII had that kind of effect on its drivers—making them feel like a million bucks, or 10 million yen, inside and out of the car.

Whatever other people say about the Evo VIII, there can be no ignoring the fact that this Japanese auto performance icon embodies the power and glory of Mitsubishi. We can even go as far as saying that the name Evolution competes with the popularity of the three-diamond logo itself—a case of the product recreating its maker.

Car sales slump expected; Toyota, Isuzu move up

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I WAS not surprised when vehicle sales dropped 6.25 percent in October.

For one, that was an aftermath of the new excise tax law that made commercial vehicles like the AUVs more expensive and passenger cars cheap.

For another, car buffs, if not outright hunters of new models, are suppressing their appetite in time for the Christmas holidays.

* * *

The records from both Campi (Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc.) and TMA (Truck Manufacturers Association) show that October sales reached only 7,068, or a decrease of 471 from September sales.

Passenger cars outsold the AUVs by a gargantuan margin, mainly because, as cited above, the radical reduction of prices of sedans was the real spirit of the new excise tax law.

The trend has become obvious: motorists had purged their urge to buy new passenger cars until after the new excise tax was implemented in September and took effect on Oct. 5.

* * *

The rapid plunge of AUV sales as well as truck sales, whose prices automatically went up because of the new excise tax, cut sales of the entire automotive industry by 12 percent in the first 10 months of the year.

Last year, sales reached 75,964 with two months left compared to the 67,844 units sold in the same period last year.

But Toyota could still afford to smile despite the slump, dominating the market once more as it collared 29.83 percent from January to October with 22,660 units sold in that period.

Honda, as usual, maintained its position as a strong second with 17.26 percent market share on 13,114 units sold, and Mitsubishi third with 12,995 units sold for a 17.11 percent market share. Isuzu was fourth at 15.33 percent (11,645 units sold) and Ford fifth with 4,428 units sold (5.83 percent market share).

Although the market forces had expected the drastic, if not dramatic, changes, it cannot be denied that President Macapagal, by signing the new excise tax law on Aug. 29, would soon reap the fruits of additional revenues to the expected tune of P202 million at year's end.

Under the new law, vehicles are slapped excise taxes of 2 percent, 20 percent, 40 percent and 60 percent depending on the vehicle's factory sticker if you will price in contrast to the old tax scheme wherein vehicles had been priced on value projections and engine displacements. So that today, the passenger cars are ahead of the pack, price-wise, as they are pegged usually at P600,000 and below, which means each sale would draw a mere 2 percent excise tax.

* * *

Again realizing the power of promotional schemes, Toyota Motor Philippines (TMP) has extended its latest customer financing special offer, the Revo Good Deals Promo.

"Due to a strong public clamor, we have extended our promo on our best-selling Revo," said Danny Isla, TMP's top-notch marketing executive.

Toyota's Financial Services continues to offer Revo buyers special low monthly payment plans and low down payment schemes which TMP's senior marketing expert Sonny Guerrero describes as "in keeping with the times since at this time of the year, many motorists are busy hunting mostly AUVs. Even the free items and accessories are instant come-ons to prospective buyers."

* * *

Among the hottest Revo line of products is the top-of-the-line VX200, which sells for P928,000. It can now be had for a down payment of only 20 percent of its floor price; the buyer will next pay a mere low monthly amortization of P17,074 for the next five years. If you opt for the 50 percent down payment, you get a zero-interest plan. Isn't that a steal?

And what about the Revo DLX? It comes at a low monthly amortization of only P6,848 within 60 months with a 50 percent down payment.

What's more, cash buyers of the Revo will be treated to rebates, savings and huge discounts.

Listen to Brian "Epstein" Ocampo, Ariel de Jesus' new understudy: "Consider this, too, Sir. All Revo variants are covered with the '3-year/100,000-km warranty.'"

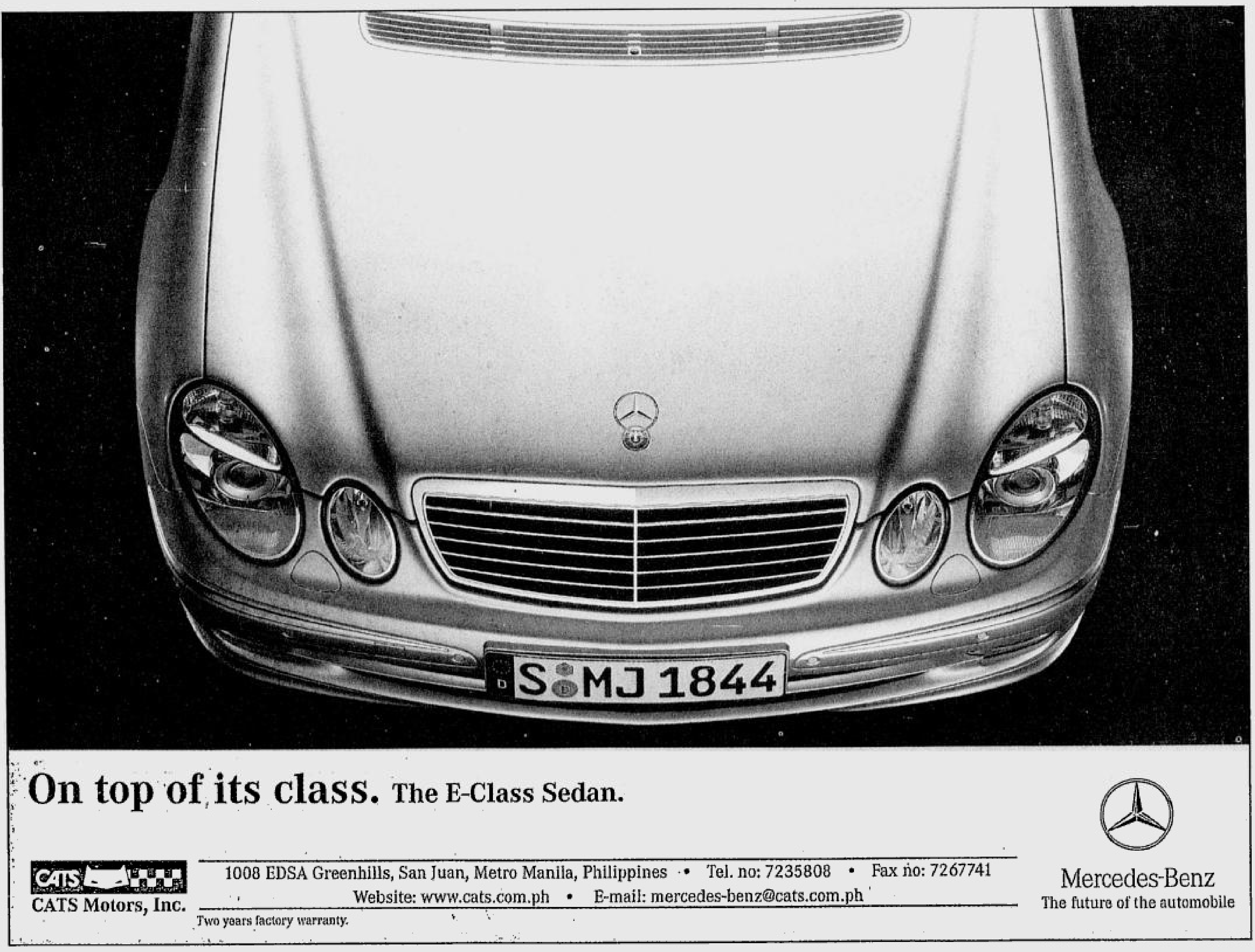
The promo, duly certified by the Department of Trade and Industry, will last up to Nov. 30.

* * *

Now comes Isuzu Philippines Corp. with its new 2004 Crosswind variants, boasting a wide array of new exterior colors and a host of "first and only" features.

The new 2004 Crosswind has the following colors and features: bright rose mica, jewel green (for the XUV); spectrum blue (for the XT and XTRM), cosmic gray (for the XL, the XT and the XTRM); copper glaze and pebble beige (for the XUV and XUVi). Classic colors alpine white (XL, XT, XTRM and XUV) and ebony black (for the XUVi) are retained for the less adventurous lot. Sahara beige is a new color for the lower body area in two-tone combinations.

For their external features, the XUV and the XUVi variants boast of stylish upgrades with their multireflector front combination lamps. The XUVi has a new set of chrome-finish magwheels. The side illuminators on the bumper over rider incorporate a 5-second switch-off time delay circuit. It also has a third brake lamp, and a redesigned spare tire cover that projects a more masculine and geometric design.



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A different kind of auto rally

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THIS Saturday, two generations of motor sport enthusiasts will be driving across Rizal province and Laguna for top honors in the 3rd Dodo Ayuyao Sampaguita Rally organized by Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) with Petron. What makes this rally different from other open-road rallies is that the winners are not the drivers who are the fastest in covering the timed or special sections of the rally routes (such as in the World Rally Championship), but those who are on time all the time.

AAP president Tony Mapa, a rally veteran who won last year's event with his son Nikko, explains the Sampaguita rally as a regulation run where the drivers are required to adhere to specific legal average speeds throughout timed sections and are penalized with demerits for running ahead or behind these average speeds whenever checked at randomly located time-control points. So the driver who incurs the least number of demerits wins.

Not on speed

In the Sampaguita rally, each entry/car shall have a team of two to four persons: a driver, a navigator and a timekeeper who computes the travel time, speed and distance (TSD). Winning hinges on team coordination and mathematical skill, not on speed. (Electronic trip meters are not allowed.) Of course, you don't win if you get lost.

"This type of rally is easier to join because it does not require expensive and homologated engine, suspension and body modifications," Mapa points out. "Its competitiveness is derived from the need for precision and managed driving, accuracy in time and route navigating and teamwork. The responsiveness, handling and roadworthiness of the entry vehicles, of course, also count a lot."

The Sampaguita rally has a long history. Mapa recalls that regulation-type rallies were first introduced in the Philippines in 1962 by the Cam Wreckers Association, then headed by the late two-time Macau Grand Prix champion Dodjie Laurel. Recognizing its value, Shell Philippines decided to sponsor and support the development of the regulation rally, Mapa says. This resulted in the annual Shell Car Rallies of 1964 (won by the late Dodo Ayuyao in a Renault), 1966 (won by Pocholo Ramirez in a Renault), 1967 (won by Ramon Binamira in a Volkswagen) and 1968 (won by Tony Wee in a Renault).

Auto Rally Club

The frequency of regulation rallies increased when, with the support of Shell, the Auto Rally Club of the Philippines was formed in 1969 with Dodo Ayuyao as founding chair and Tony Mapa as president. The Auto Rally Club held rallies every month, crowned by the first Rally of Champions in 1970 that was won by Pocholo Ramirez in a Toyota.

In the 1972 Royal Rally of Champions (won by Dante Silverio in a Toyota), Mapa continues, the Auto Rally Club followed the example of the

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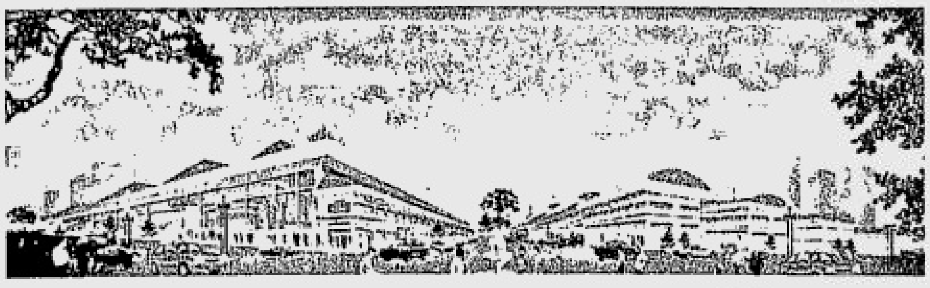

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Text and photos
by Charles E. Buban

IMAGINE how streets and highways would be like if all of them are little bit hushed.

With outside decibel level minimized, surely, driving would be less stressful and weaving through traffic somewhat bearable.

Thankfully this was in the minds of Chrysler engineers when they refurbished the Town & Country for 2004.

Its rigid body structure and longer wheel base (at 3 meters) not only contributes to solid ride and handling characteristics, but also minimizes the transmission of road noise, wind noise (at high speed), harshness to the passenger compartment and absorbs bumps better than most vehicles.

More comfortable

"Riding in the new Town & Country becomes even more comfortable since its front and rear suspension mounts (special gaskets, reengineered suspension attachments) were set up to absorb vibration," reveals Porti Vencer, national marketing director of Norkis Automotive Resources Corp., exclusive distributor of the minivan here.

He also explained that Chrysler installed Sound-Loc door liners and seals to further reduce noise inside the minivan's door cavities.

MOST of the improvements were done within the new Chrysler Town & Country.

YOU'LL never run out of space for your grocery with this exclusive cargo organizer located at the rear.

EVERY control and console is within reach of the driver.

"With a quiet and comfortable ride, the driver can concentrate more on the road, while passengers may enjoy more their conversations or the entertainment systems inside the Town & Country."

On to the power doors

What also makes the Town & Country so lovable are its three power doors (left and right sliding and rear) that can be remotely opened and closed through its remote keyless entry system.

Press a button on the key and the door slides open; press the button again and it slides closed and seals. From the second-row seat, the power sliding door can also be opened and closed by pressing a button; it can also be opened manually (by pulling on the outside lever).

A safety lock switch hidden on the trailing edge of the door can be engaged to prevent a child from opening the sliding door from inside.

The power sliding doors on each side can add considerable convenience, particularly when one herds family members or carrying two armloads of gear.

Also by pressing the key, one can open or close the power liftgate from a distance, which adds further convenience especially when approaching the minivan with two armloads of stuffs and it's raining.

Another desirable feature once inside the minivan is its removable console located between the seats.

It has two compartments, one large with a storage tray just inside the door for a few CDs, glasses etc. and a larger compartment underneath the tray for larger items or the optional 12 pack cooler for canned drinks.

The front compartment is set up with a cell phone holder and a hot outlet for charging your phone.

This console can be detached and moved to the middle of the second row seats or you can purchase another and have two.

Driver's conveniences

Slide behind the wheel of the Town & Country, and one will find all of the driving information needed at a glance.

The black-on-white gauges are very elegant and readable especially with its electroluminescent gauges that emit a soft green glow when lighted.

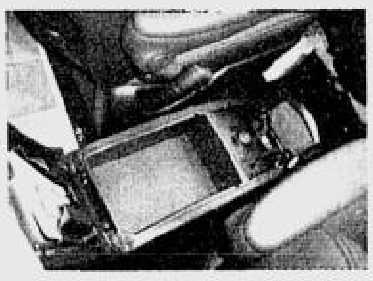
Looking up, there's also the minivan's overhead console with trip computer that features a compass, and displays that tell outside temperature, trip odometer (how many kilometers left before empty), door ajar warning message, perform service indicator, and a low tire pressure warning.

Family in mind

"The Town & Country was designed and engineered with the family in mind, to help make every trip as comfortable, safe and secure as possible," explains Vencer.

At 215-horsepower, its 3.8L V6 engine provides plenty of muscle to meet almost all driving needs.

Indeed, driving this latest Town & Country was pleasant and enjoyable. And thanks to its enhanced features, moving around the metropolis isn't as raucous as it really is.



A REMOVABLE console located between the seats opens to many little but useful compartments.

CHRYSLER Town and Country has plenty of room for seven to travel in comfort and style.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3504 Series of 2003

A different kind. . .

From page C3

Tulip Rally of Holland and initiated the use of directional or tulip symbols to simplify rally route instructions that used to be given in lengthy paragraphs. Instead of tulips, which do not blossom in the Philippines, the Auto Rally Club decided to use the sampaguita to give the rally a Filipino flavor. In this way the Sampaguita rally was born.

Mapa remembers that the last major Sampaguita rally took place in 1975, bannered as the Maya Industry Rally of Champions. (How can he forget, since he won it in a Mitsubishi?) Since rally drivers were clamoring for faster and more competitive speeds, rally veterans Willie Ingles and Ronnie Pasola came up with the epic Manila-to-Davao Gedol Rally in November 1975 that was won by John MacDonald in a Toyota. The Gedol Philippines rally marked the shift from regulation to speed-type rallying in the Philippines, Mapa says.

Revived

For 25 years thereafter, no Sampaguita rally was held. But in September 2001, AAP (then known as Philippine Motor Association) revived it by staging the first Dodo Ayuyao Sampaguita Rally to honor AAP late president Conrado "Dodo" R. Ayuyao, who is fondly remembered as the Dean of Philippine Motor Sports. The 1st Dodo Ayuyao Sampaguita Rally, ending at the Development Academy of the Philippines grounds in Tagaytay, was won by the team of Martin Galan and the Guevarra brothers Bambi and Raffy in an Opel Vectra, besting 12 other teams. TV motoring show host Butch Gamboa, who joined the first Dodo Ayuyao rally, enjoyed it so much that he organized two Sampaguita rallies in 2002 with Shell-Helix as sponsor.

The second Dodo Ayuyao Sampaguita Rally in September 2002, routed through Batangas and Cavite, was won by Tony Mapa and son Nikko in a Honda Civic VTi. For the second Dodo Ayuyao rally, AAP noted that many young motor sport enthusiasts, whose parents were veteran rally drivers, had signed up. So AAP included a Fun Class—a combination of time-rally and treasure hunt—for novice teams competing for the first time. First and second place in the Fun Class went to the two entries of Team K8TVT headed by Earl Palma. Team Viking of King Villanueva, Elias Cruz II and Mark David Callejo won third place honors.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: A bartender is a pharmacist with a limited inventory.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.)

LifeStyle
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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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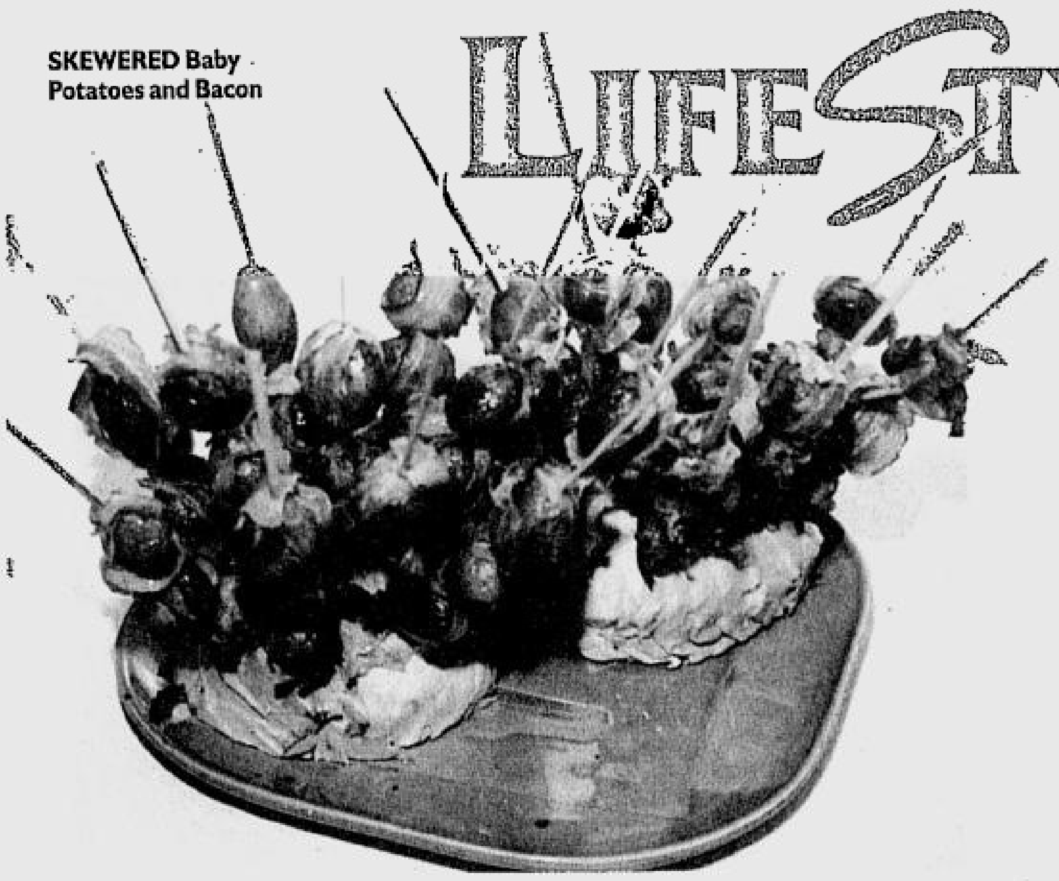
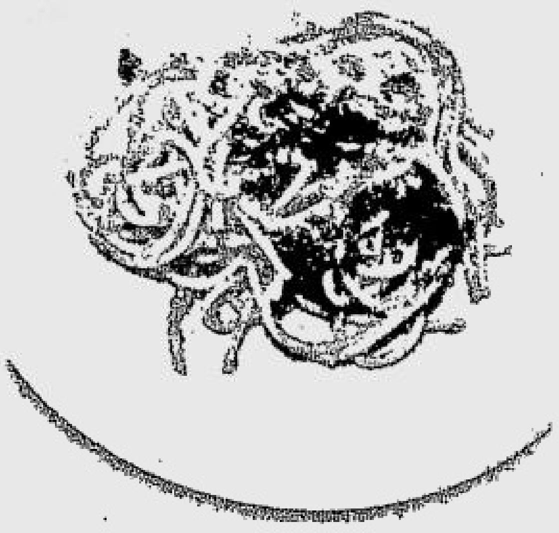


SKEWERED Baby Potatoes and Bacon

Petra's Naturally makes nutritious but fun food for kids



SPAGHETTI Bolognese

Veggies can be kiddie party fare, too

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

YOUR child is turning a year older. You are planning a birthday party but want to serve something more healthful than the usual hotdog, fried chicken and spaghetti with all the artificial food coloring, preservatives and fatty oils that go with them. But you know too well the children will be looking for these popular party fares. What do you do?

CATERING

Call Jacqueline Haessig Alleje, a Swiss-Pinoy caterer specializing in dishes with organic and healthy ingredients.

Organic food for kids? "And why not?" asks Alleje. "Kids may not even know that what they're eating are organic vegetables and meat because they are deliciously prepared and served at their healthiest and natural best."

By organic, Alleje means plants cultivated without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Chickens and livestock are raised in their natural habitats, given natural feeds (no fishmeal and discarded animal parts) and without growth hormones and antibiotics.

Wholesome kiddie menu

Alleje's 2-year-old catering company called Petra's Naturally (tels. 8909945 and 8709474) has come up with a wholesome kiddie menu, minus processed foods. She serves Swiss sausage and Spaghetti Bolognese with organic tomato sauce prepared from scratch.

For her pork barbecue, Alleje uses the healthy *muscovado* or raw sugar instead of refined sugar for the marinade. The *leche flan* is made of organic milk and eggs. Vegetables are "camouflaged" as great-tasting carrot-squash croquettes and *monggo* balls. "And why not pop corn instead of cotton candy?" she suggests.

Alleje uses only freshly dressed free-range chickens. "I try not to serve fried chicken because I don't see the point of frying with gal-

VEGGIES/ D3

ORGANIC advocate Jacqueline Haessig Alleje

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More Filipino kids becoming obese

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

LACK of physical activity, high-rise living, computer games, television addiction and snacking are some reasons the number of overweight Filipino children is on the rise. We gathered this from reports on weight problems among Asian urban children published by the Asian Food Information Center (AFIC).

One of the reports was based on interviews with children aged 10-12 years ("tweenies," as nutritionists called them) from middle-income families in Manila, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. One in four tweenies, according to the survey, was already either overweight or obese.

Although the tweenies, the nutritionists said, were getting more nutritional information, the knowledge was obviously not enough to prevent childhood overweight and obesity. Most of the tweenies admitted they enjoyed physical activity but regretted that homework, lack of time and other preferences prevented them from doing more physical activities.

Another survey of children aged 8-10 years in Manila conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology showed that only one out of four children joined actual physical exercise every day. Three out of four spent their time playing computer games, watching television and reading. It was also disclosed that children had physical education lessons only once or twice a week.

In many other Asian cities, high-rise living and lack of adequate space and equipment limited the chances for physical activity. Other reasons cited for weight problems were skipping breakfast (said to be statistically significant for girls only), eating out and eating more meat than vegetables.

HOT & SPICED
V-Beef

UNUSUAL and colorful packaging lures more kids to junk food. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Standards for children

Candies from coin-operated dispensers are dyed in very striking green, red, blue and yellow colors, obviously to catch the attention of children. They have indeed become quite popular among kids although they are "toothache-sweet."

We are also concerned about their bright colors. Suffice it to say that some artificial food dyes are known to cause serious health problems.

This reminds us to call the attention of food safety officials to those popular children's snack items in supermarkets and neighborhood *sari-sari* stores. If they are not too sweet, they are just too salty! It's high time our health officials study and regulate the sodium and sugar contents of these products, as well as other additives used by the manufacturers.

Comments and complaints

P. Robles (pochrobles@pacific.net.ph) wrote: "Consumer complaint columns perform an invaluable service, but frankly, you could be much more effective if you named the offending companies or stores, like they do in the United States. An unnamed outlet does not have a compelling reason to act on a complaint. Hope you take this comment in the spirit of improvement. Keep up the good work!"

From C. Ventura (syltan1@skyinet.net): "It was unfair of you to have identified the promoter of the BPI installment sales promo without likewise identifying the appliance store that sold M. Bautista her refrigerator. Now I'm forced to shy away from all the appliance stores in Glorietta as any one of them can pull the same stunt on me should I buy an appliance there. If you have to chastise certain individuals, stores, or whatever, please identify the culprit unless you're scared of getting sued."

Both comments are well taken by this columnist. Allow us to explain that editorial policy prevents us from mentioning the name of an establishment that is the subject of a complaint until and unless we get its side of the story. Having done that, we can now mention that the appliance store, which failed to deliver the refrigerator on schedule as they promised, was Abenson's.

We thank Marivi Flores, marketing services manager of Robinsons Handyman Inc., for prompt action on a complaint we forwarded to her. She sent an e-mail to inform consumers that Handyman management has scheduled free classes on basic home improvement topics, product demonstrations, key duplication services, and other do-it-yourself subjects. Call 3955249 or e-mail victoria.flores@handyman.com.ph.

Consumers are invited to look at products for the coming holidays from "Mr. Chen" of CJD Business Spread Center, Tianjin, China (chen_k@51.net): "We combined a large number of local (workers) to develop China's traditional handicrafts. Examples are excellently crafted China knot, cross-stitch, basketry, and many more." Mr. Chen assures buyers and potential business partners of prompt delivery. See the products on the company website at http://chaojiede.126.com

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

Welcome party for 'young' red wine

AT EXACTLY a minute past midnight on the third Thursday of November each year—the 20th this year—more than a million cases of Beaujolais Nouveau are transported from the vineyards of Beaujolais in Burgundy in southern France, to Paris and other parts of the world.

Banners proclaiming "Le Beaujolais Nouveau est arrivé!" (Beaujolais Nouveau has arrived) are hung in cafés and bars all over France and elsewhere.

In the Philippines, the celebration will be a few days later. On Nov. 25 at the NBC Tent in The Fort, the young red wine will be introduced in Manila in the 15th edition of "Le Beaujolais Nouveau Wine Fest." It is the second biggest event of the Le Club French Business Association of the Philippines after Bastille Day, France's National Day, on July 14.

Beaujolais has a light, fruity flavor and a floral spray that comes from its Gamay (ga-me) grape heritage. Unlike other wines that have to be aged, beaujolais is hardly fermented after bottling and almost immediately consumed.

Curnonsky, the acknowledged prince of gastronomes, declared, "The Beaujolais wines are deliciously fresh to the palate. They charm you with their delicacy, tenderness and lightness."

2003
BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU

As in the past, the question that will be in everyone's mind in this year's Beaujolais Nouveau Wine Fest is: "Will this year's harvest possess the elements of a quality vintage Beaujolais Nouveau?" With French wine producers greatly benefiting from a summer heat wave in Europe and grape-picking beginning as early as Aug. 14, the answer is expected to be a big "yes"!

Georges Dubeouf, considered the king of Beaujolais, said this year's vintage would be of unparalleled quality. In fact, he himself could have been the greatest vintage of his career.

Another question that will be asked in the fest is: "How will this year's vintage taste?" The Beaujolais Nouveau is typically fruity and light, but its tang varies each year. One year it tastes like strawberry and citrus, then a tango of berries and bananas the next. But however it tastes, connoisseurs anticipate this year's Beaujolais Nouveau will be good enough to toast the good life, especially when served chilled.

In addition to the free-flowing wine, the Nov. 25 event will feature a wide assortment of *boulangerie* (cheese), *charcuteries* (cooked meat) and cold cuts flown in from France—all for P1,800 a ticket.

This year's celebration brings guests to the courtyard of medieval Notre Dame in a setting straight out of Victor Hugo's novel "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." Actress Chin-chin Gutierrez will grace the occasion as gypsy dancer Esmeralda in dazzling production numbers. She will be joined by other performers who will reenact scenes from Hugo's 19th-century classic.

Some P800,000 worth of prizes will be given away in a raffle. Top prize is a Manila-Paris round-trip Air France ticket. Another winner will have the use of a luxurious Peugeot car for 17 days courtesy of Auto France Philippines Inc.

Call Le Club at 8139005.

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NEW SALAD DRESSING LINE
Nutri-licious Foods Corporation (NFC) continues to expand its wide array of delicious and nutritious products with the launching of Mom's Salad Dressing. The new product line has variants of Real Mayonnaise, Sandwich Spread and All-Purpose Dressing, perfect for sprucing up salad starters. Nutri-licious Mom's Salad Dressing products, in 3.5 liter, 470 ml and 220 ml, are now available in leading supermarkets and grocery stores nationwide.

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FIESTA Taco Salad

Savoring salads

SALADS aren't only the healthiest food around, they're also very flexible dishes, allowing you a thousand and one ways to prepare them.

You can make any salad colorful by mixing various greens, add flavor by putting in cold cuts or shredded chicken, and finish it with a dollop of thousand island or balsamic dressing.

You can go Greek by putting in tomatoes, cucumber, sliced onions and tart olives over a simple lemon juice dressing, or go all the way healthy with lettuce, carrots and beans. And if you want some carbohydrates you can use macaroni.

Pancake House offers the following salad recipes that will go well with either lunch or dinner.

Fiesta Taco Salad

Ingredients: Taco salad shell, lettuce, cubed roast chicken, tomatoes and onions, cooked red kidney beans, corn chips, grated cheddar cheese and fiesta taco salad dressing

Procedure: Place taco shell in a salad bowl. Add lettuce, roast chicken, onions, tomatoes and kidney beans. Sprinkle with cheese and top with corn chips. Pour "fiesta taco salad dressing" over salad.

Chef's Salad

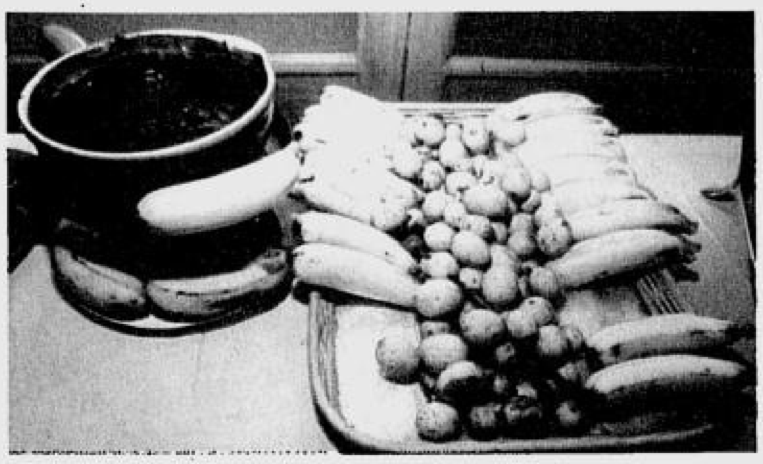
Ingredients: Lettuce, steamed white chicken (cubed), cheddar cheese cubes, ham, carrots julienne, asparagus spears, boiled egg slices, thousand island dressing

Procedure: Place lettuce in a salad bowl. Add chicken and cheese cubes. Put carrots and ham strips. Top with asparagus spears and egg slices. Serve with thousand island dressing.

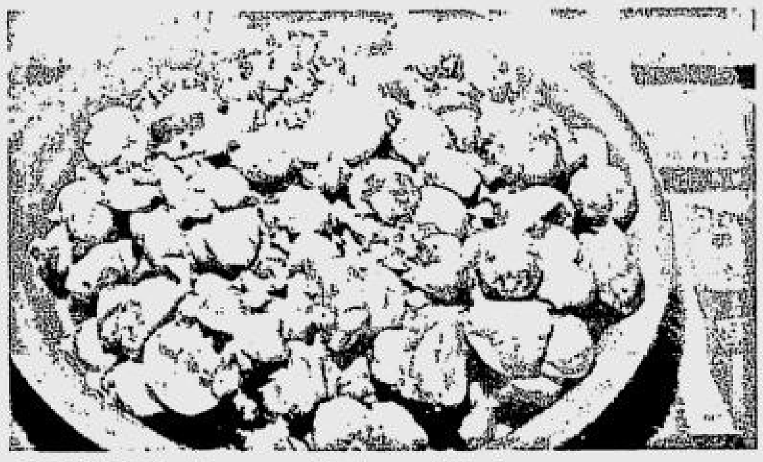
Best Tuna Macaroni Salad

Ingredients: Macaroni pasta, tuna chunks, chopped sweet pickles, chopped onions, chopped celery, boiled eggs, mayonnaise, salt and pepper

Procedure: Combine pasta, tuna chunks, sweet pickles, onions and celery in one bowl. Slice boiled egg in half, chop one half and set aside the other. Mix in chopped egg and mayonnaise with pasta. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve with sliced egg on top.



TO satisfy kids' cravings for sweets, fresh fruits like bananas are dipped in dark chocolate.



ORGANIC Baby Potato and Mushroom Salad

HAPPY BIRTHDAY KEENAN

RATHER than organize parties revolving around Disney-inspired themes, Petra's tries to promote environmental awareness with this unique birthday cake.

Veggies can be kiddie party . . .

From page D1

lons of greasy oil. I either grill the chicken or roast it. Better yet, I make a chicken stew."

Alleje avoids serving unnecessary sweets like marshmallows and the likes. Instead, she serves kids banana sticks dipped in dark chocolate. "At least, you still satisfy their cravings for sweets by combining them with fresh fruits," says Alleje. The carrot cake is also made with *muscovado*.

Petra's kiddie specials also include tofu pizza and tofu fritters.

Soda is a no-no. Instead, Alleje gives children a totally different thirst quencher—lemongrass cooler.

"You can make organic food a part of your kids' lives. You will be giving kids delicious, healthful meals, and teaching them an invaluable life lesson about where food comes from and how we can work together to save the earth," she adds.

Healthful spread for adults

For adults in the party, Petra's has developed a full line of healthy fares like an organic salad bar, spaghetti puttanesca or pesto, roast beef with classic brown sauce or sage-flavored roast pork, cheese platters, European sausage platters, smoked pork chop on *santol-muscovado* puree served with organic red rice or oven-baked rosemary marble potatoes, homemade ice creams and sherbets, *langka* bread pudding, and squash rhum *flan*.

Despite the minimal use of salt and the absence of MSG, the dishes are surprisingly tasty while light on the palate.

Alleje sources her dairy and poultry needs direct from the family-owned Rizal Dairy Farms in Antipolo. As an active member of the Organic Producers Trade Association of the Philippines, she is assured of a steady supply of fresh vegetables.

"It matters a lot that our children begin to eat healthy food at a young age," says Alleje.

"Parents must know that there's more to party food than red hotdogs, artificially flavored sauces and other kind of junk food. Let's give our children tasty food that can still be healthy."

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

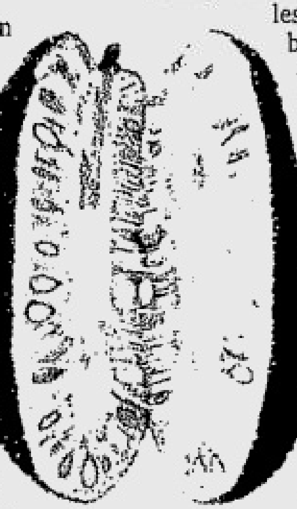
HEALTHY kiddie munchies: popcorn, creme puff, toasted walnuts and brownies

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
KEENAN

TO go with the healthy kiddie menu, Petra's Naturally has also created theme parties geared toward appreciation of life and nature, such as Animal Kingdom, Flower Farm, Plant Kingdom, Sea Creatures, Noah's Arc, and Planets and Stars.

Food tripping in these islands

IMELDA Silayan, well-known industrial kitchen designer, spends her free time exploring places here and abroad and discovering different foods.



'LANGKA' fruit

Her latest vacation with husband Bart, which she described in the newsletter "In Touch" she sent out to her clients, took her to different places in the Philippines where she savored different delicacies.

In Sagada, Mountain Province, Silayan and her husband savored yellow-orange *camote* roasted over charcoal. Burned on the outside but perfectly done inside, she found the taste of the simple fare "unforgettable."

The town's vegetable fried rice, an innkeeper told the couple, was one reason for one Danish customer to return every year. Big pieces of fresh carrots, cauliflower, broccoli stir fried with garlic and onions then mixed with rice, salt and pepper, and served hot was not only delicious but nutritious, as well.

'Nilaga' with a difference

Batanes had a different way with *ulang*—steamed with a lot of young garlic. Even the *nilaga*, using meat from cattle that fed on wild grasses and had not been given any chemicals, would be a whole new experience for Metro Manilans. Batanes food, Silayan found, was so understated, much less written about, but was just as memorable as the breathtaking scenery. The excellent cuisine used fresh, generally organically grown ingredients.

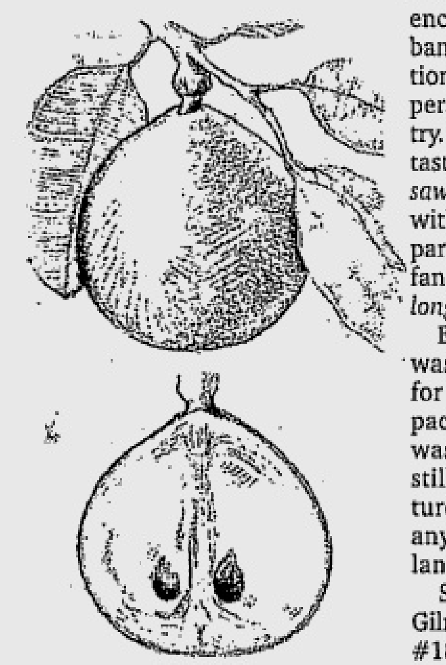
Tropical fruits from Bogo, Cebu should set new standards in quality, according to Silayan. The *caimito* were just slightly bigger than golf balls but were so juicy and sweet. *Langka*, peeled and chilled, was succulent and delicious.

Vegetable dishes from Ilocos, with names like *dinengdeng and borodibud*, were simply boiled or steamed with fish *bagoong* and simmered for awhile. Generally overcooked, the dishes had many vegetables not usually found in supermarkets— *malunggay* fruits, *patani, kalabasa* flowers, tops of *camote, sitaw, saluyot, kalabasa*. Others were totally strange to non-Ilocanos.

A merienda of Vigan *empanada* became a whole new experience for Silayan and her husband who watched with fascination the process of rolling wrappers for the vegetable-filled pastry. They ate their freshly made tasty empanada with a *sawsawan* of Ilocano cane vinegar with *sibuyas bumbay*. The best part: Each piece cost only P5. A fancier version, with egg and *longganiza*, cost P20.

Eating *piaya* in Bacolod City was also a different experience for the pastry, usually already packed when it gets to Manila, was served freshly made and still warm. Silay *lumpia* featured a wrapper that was not anything like what Metro Manilans used.

Silayan's office is at 11-D Gilmore Heights Condominium, #18 Gilmore Ave., Quezon city, tel. 5318058.



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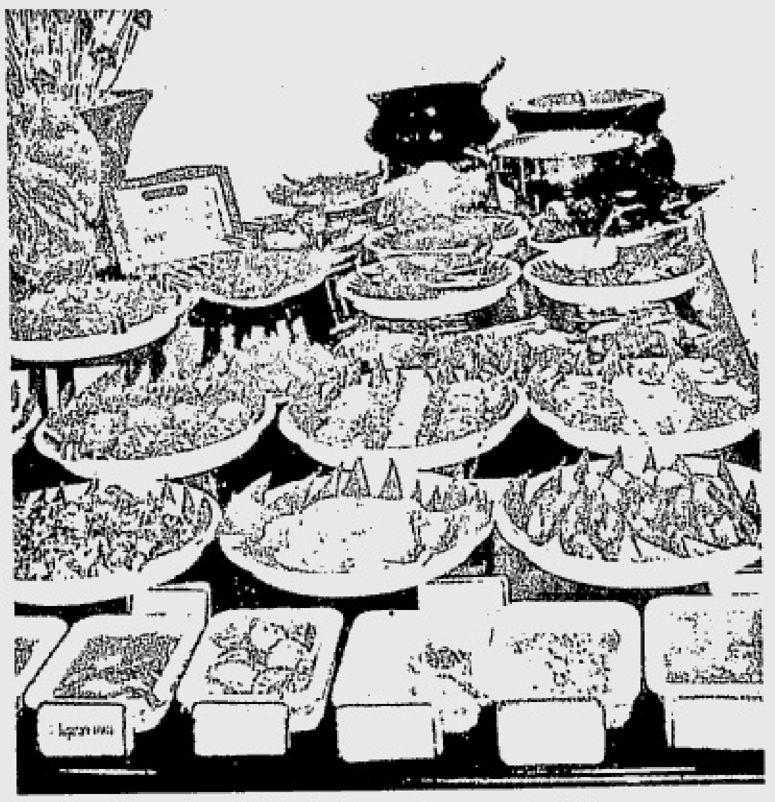

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FOR the coming holidays, Cabalen is offering freebies for early and repeat bookings for Christmas parties for 30, 50 or 100 people.

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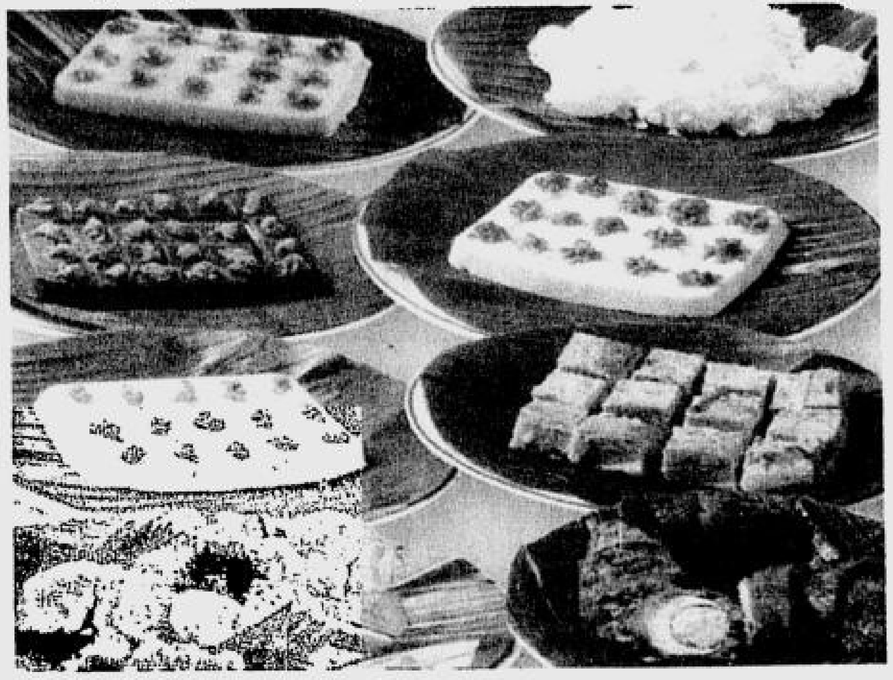
Cabalen also offers the much-loved Pinoy Deli Baskets for P150, P 350 or P550 per basket .

The baskets are laden with canned and bottled Kapampangan delicacies such as the fast-selling Cabalen Taba ng Talangka, Cabalen Sweet and Spicy Bagoong, Cabalen Sweet Chili sauce and Cabalen Burong Hipon.

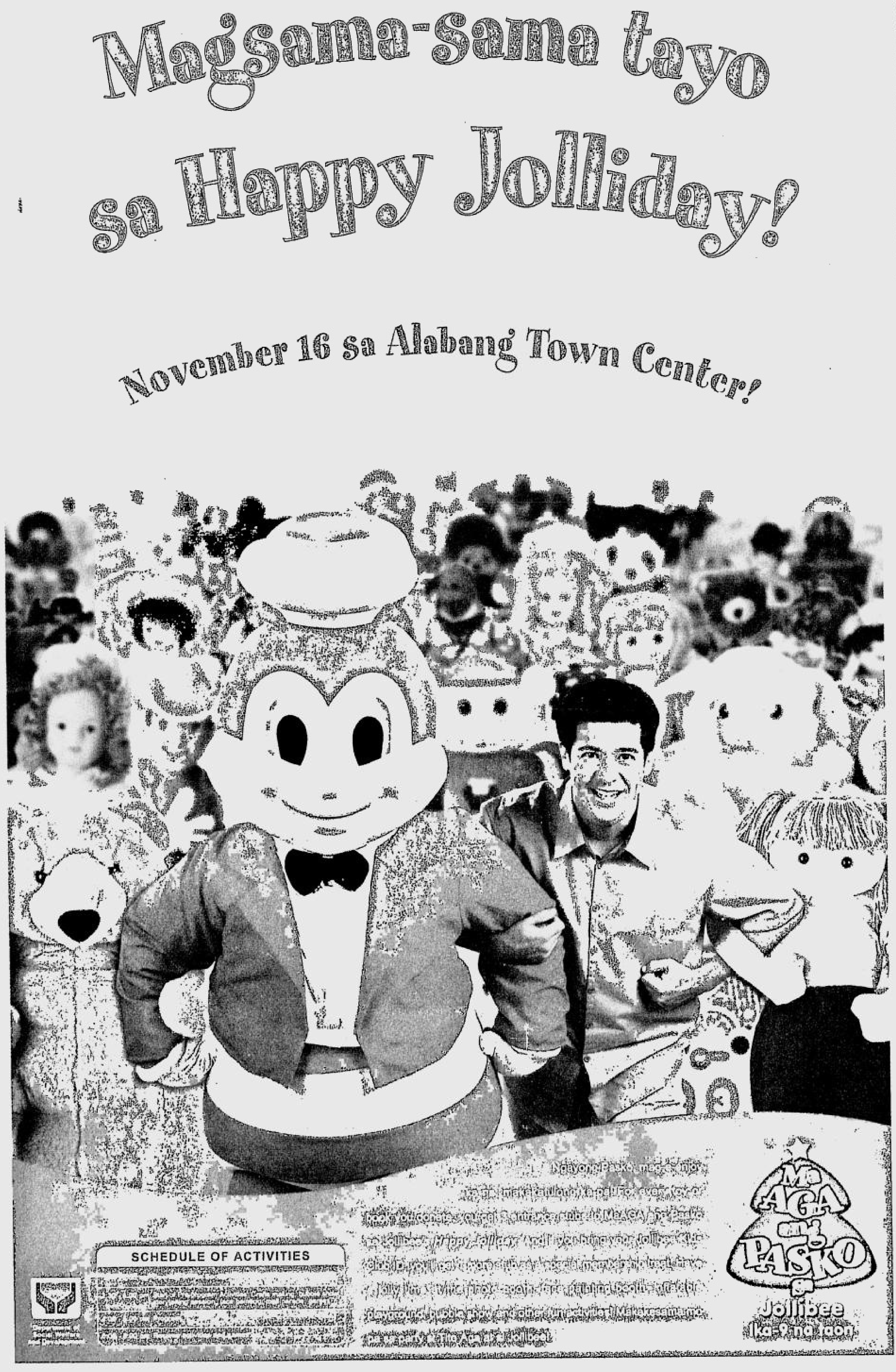
Cabalen specialties such as Lechon de Leche, Cabalen Morcon, Rellenong Bangus and the Kakanin Pampasalubong are now available for take out.

Cabalen has outlets at SM Megamall, Glorietta 3, Robinsons Place Ermita, SM City North Edsa, SM City Manila, Brick Road Sta. Lucia Mall, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga and Village Square Harrison Plaza.

Cabalen also caters for all occasions. Call 4219220 or 9135522.



ASSORTED Kapampangan sweets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Ika-9 na taon

Jollibee-SAS Turnover an Achievement for Pampanga and Bulacan

"THIS is a day of achievement for us as there are now 2,600 grade four students from 14 public schools who have become booklovers." These are the words of City of San Fernando Mayor Rey Aquino during the turnover of 14 Reading carts by Sa Aklat Sisikat (SAS) Foundation and Jollibee Foods Corporation. A total of 3,900 brand new children's storybooks were handed over for distribution to the 14 participating schools.

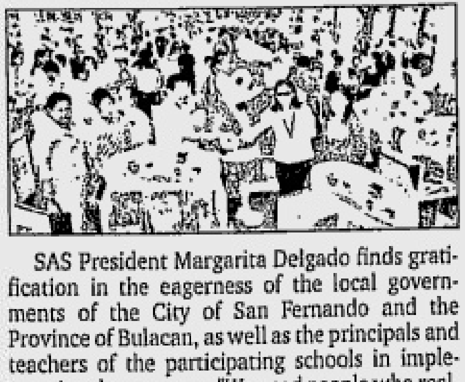
The Reading Cart turnover is the result of the 31-day Read-A-Thon which the participating schools have fulfilled. "But the real reward is the love of reading that is developed in the students, which for me is the more lasting gift," Mayor Aquino continued.

Similarly, Bulacan was delighted by the result of the Read-A-Thon. SAS and Jollibee distributed a total of 4,600 books to 15 public schools, benefiting 3,500 Grade Four students in the province of Bulacan. Grade-four teacher Vivian Rodriguez described how it enhanced the reading habits of the students. "The Readying Program has helped developed the interest on books among our students. The children enjoyed reading and have learned to appreciate the authors, the illustrators and the book characters. SAS and Jollibee have built a bridge in building a nation of readers," Rodriguez said.

Grade four students Jordan Angan-angan and Allyana Lorico shared the improvements they experienced with the Read-A-Thon. "Hindi ako mabilis magbasa dati" (I was not a fast reader before), Jordan disclosed. "Pero nang nagsimula na ang Read-A-Thon pumapasok na ako ng mas maaga. Namangha ako habang binabasa ko ang mga libro sa SAS Reading Program. Mabilis na akong magbasa at mas naging interesado ako sa pagbabasa. Hangang-hanga ako sa mga tagaguhit ng mga libro. Dahil sa kanila, natuklasan ko ang aking talento sa paguhit. Pinaguhit pa nga ako ng aking teacher para sa art exhibit dito." (But when we started with the Read-A-Thon, I go to class earlier than I used to. I was amazed when I read the books in the SAS Reading Program. I read faster and Ibecame more interested in reading. I admire the illustrators of the books. Through them, I discovered my talent in drawing. My teacher even asked me to draw for the art exhibit here.)

Allyana related how the Read-A-Thon was a help to her. "Nadagdagan ang kaalaman ko tungkol sa maraming bagay dahil sa mga nabasa ko noong kami ay nag Read-A-Thon. Ito ay nagdulot sa aming mga kabataan ng lubos na kasiyahan. Sana ay magpatuloy pa ang programa ninyo para mas mnaraming mga bata ang magiging masaya. Salamat sa SAS at Jollibee sa paghandog nila ng 'Jollibee Kids Read' with Sa Aklat Sisikat Reading Program sa amin." (My knowledge of so many things increased with the interesting topics I read through the Read-A-Thon. This has brought so much joy to us children. I hope that this program will continue so that more and more kids like us will be happy. I thank SAS and Jollibee for bringing the 'Jollibee Kids Read' with Sa Aklat Sisikat Reading Program to us.)

"Hearing the positive result of the Reading Program from the students themselves inspire us to do more for the advancement of literacy in our country. Jollibee has always put the welfare of children in most of its endeavors. This is just one of our many ways of contributing to child empowerment and enhancement. With the success of the Reading Program, we offer a better future for these children. Isang kinabukasan na lalong sumasarap at tumitingkad sa tulong ng pagbabasa ng libro," Jollibee Events Officer Kay Segismundo shared.



SAS President Margarita Delgado finds gratification in the eagerness of the local governments of the City of San Fernando and the Province of Bulacan, as well as the principals and teachers of the participating schools in implementing the program. "We need people who really have the passion to build our country into a nation of readers."

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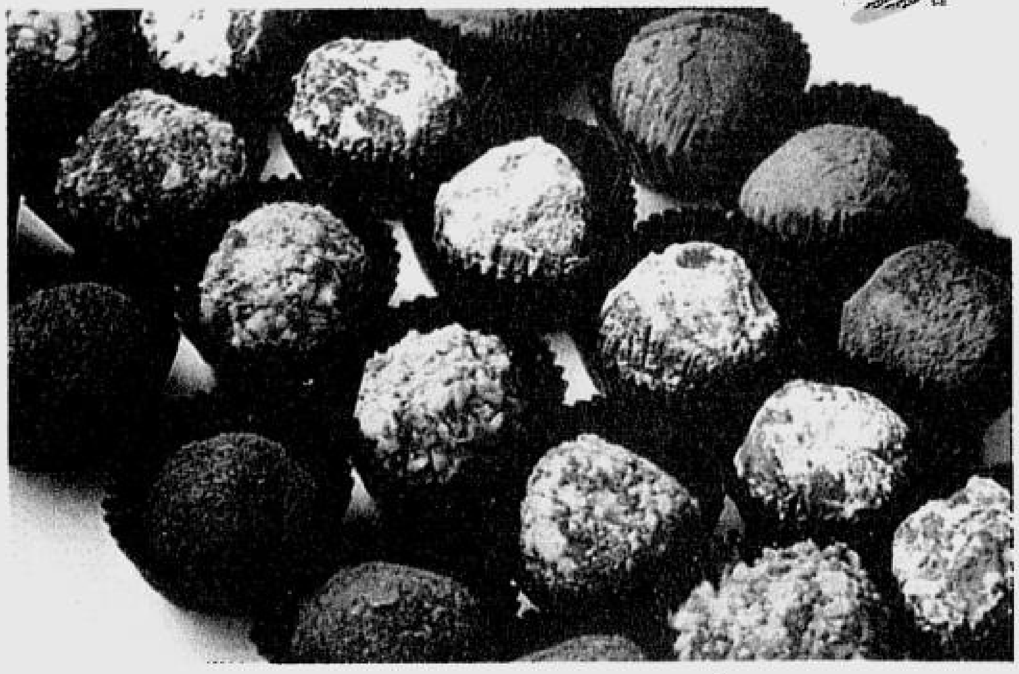

When cravings can comfort

By Josefina P. Manahan
Contributor

(Editor's note: The following is one of the essays included in the International Wine and Food Society-Manila Ladies Branch booklet "Comforting Cuisine," edited by Erlinda E. Panlilio and Felice P. Sta. Maria, slated to come out this month on the occasion of the society's second anniversary.)

WHEN we moved into our house 41 years ago, West Avenue was a carabao run, the occasional passing vehicle coming to a full stop to allow herds to pass. Today, it has become a busy restaurant row catering. Occasionally, I buy take-out food to add to everyday or party meals from the dozens of restaurants there.

A little-known Chinese country-food restaurant, Ha Yuan, makes Fukienese fresh *lumpia*. It is a delicious mixture of minced carrots, green beans, tofu, young garlic bulbs and leaves sautéed in onion and peanut oil. Tiny salt-fish chips fried to a crisp and aromatic Chinese coriander are stirred in before the concoction is shaped into huge rolls that experts hold and eat like a hotdog.

Since I am no expert, I like to drizzle the sweetish sauce over the *lumpia* and consume it wielding knife and fork. Their hot and sour soup is excellent as is their *maki mi*—home-made flat noodles simmered in a rich stock. My daughters like their *hacau*—fat, little steamed-shrimp dumplings. My husband Tony likes the pork and taro braised in oyster sauce. Ha Yuan started out in a small street stall selling fresh *lumpia* in busy Chinatown. They now occupy their own modern glass-and-concrete building.

Pilo sells one of the best *pulutan* ever invented—chicken skin *chicharon* aleta. These are quick-fried into delectable little crisp slivers perfect with very cold beer or a fruity white wine.

Then there is a Pancit Malabon outlet that probably has the most delicious *pancit* outside Malabon. They also sell crisp, light-as-air *ukoy* and *dilis* with a dip of dark, aged nipa vinegar. The Tokwa't Baboy is the perfect fillip to the noodles. And their Rellenong Bangus is as good as the one your cook makes.

When the family craves a cholesterol binge, I send out to Barrio Fiesta for an extra-large Crispy Pata. The family is evenly divided into two camps, the *balat* and the *laman* lovers.

Some days we like the *machang* from Kowloon House, lotus leaf-wrapped cones of rice streamed with chestnuts, lotus seed and an occasional morsel of pork. To open the *machang*, we lay it on a plate and unfold the layers of leaves slowly to enjoy the wonderful scent of the greenish-tinged rice. With a dish of steamed vegetables, it makes a good light meal.

Hankerings

But my own comfort food depends on the particular hankering that my physician-children tell me has to do with body cycles. There are days when I must have the divine garlic-fried rice my cook makes (just imagine chopped, pungent Ilocos garlic, fried till golden then coaxed into day-old sushi or Milagrosa rice and tenderly turned with white sea salt from Leyte). I eat that with a couple of Bueno Spanish Spiced Sardines and sliced juicy-red tomato, over which home-made *patis* has been drizzled.

I sometimes have a craving for Monggo Guisado. We do it this way: Parboil green mung beans until tender. Prepare chopped garlic, white onion sliced fine and *malunggay* leaves. Pour a tablespoon of olive oil into a frying pan. When the oil sizzles, put garlic, onion and *malunggay* into it. When leaves start to wilt, pour in the *monggo*. Allow the mixture to come to a slow simmer for about 10 minutes. Season with good *patis*. It is simply delicious by itself. Or I might top it with crisp *chicharon*.

Fragrant dish

One of the family's favorites is Eggplant in Coconut Milk, an everyday dish from Leyte. My mother (who taught me to cook it) would choose young eggplant, not more than eight inches in length. She would have them roasted on coconut-shell charcoal. When thoroughly cooked, the outer layer would be peeled, smoothing off any skin, and the eggplant chopped fine. She would have finely chopped *sibuyas na tagalog*, milk from coconuts just turned mature, and wild sweet basil leaves, *sangig* in Lineyte-Samarnon (Waray) prepared.

The first press of the coconut would be set aside. The second press would be put into a clay pot over a low fire until it came to a rolling simmer. She would drop the onion into the coconut milk, the eggplant following. The mixture was allowed to gently simmer until it was of purée-like consistency. (By the way, only a wooden or coconut-shell spoon could be used for the occasional stir.) She would then pour in the first press of the coconut, season the mixture with salt and drop in a handful of basil leaves. After about five minutes, this delectable and delicately fragrant dish was ready for eating.

Ritual

And who does not love chocolate? Strange, but it is only when I am very tired that I have this huge craving for it. I have a small ritual to honor the consuming of this most exquisite of substances! I set a pair of truffles—one milk chocolate, the other white chocolate—before me. I wait about 10 minutes until the chocolate starts to gleam, then I know it is ready for me. I start with the while chocolate truffle. I put it into my expectant mouth, let it rest on my tongue for a few seconds, then as I bite into it—velvety, luscious, utterly sinful—it magically releases benevolence, joy. Reveling in the experience, I realize that the last bit of white chocolate has melted away. I quickly pop the milk chocolate truffle. As I eat it I am suddenly transformed. I am not only comforted, I am ready to take on the whole world!

Josefina P. Manahan is the author of the book "Streetbound: Manila On Foot" (Anvil, 2001)

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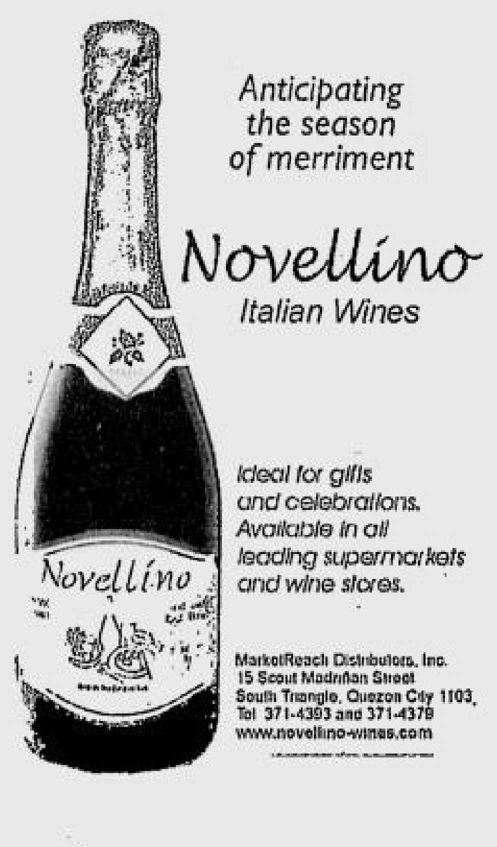
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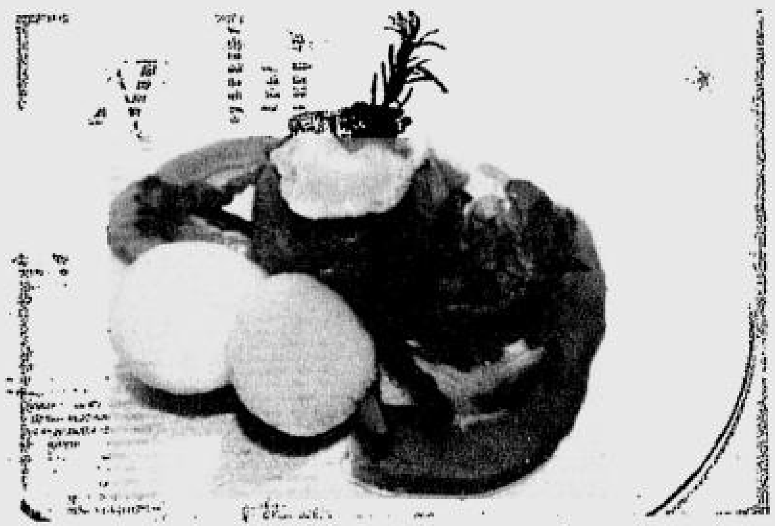
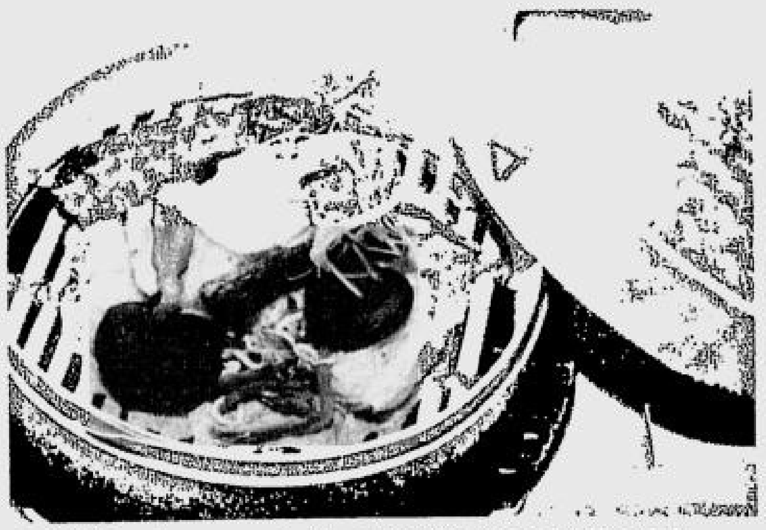

DEBONED quail *adobo* marinated in soy sauce and cane vinegar in shape of small tower, stuffed with *balut* paté garnished with caramelized green


GRILLED sea bass served with soy jus with steamed roulade of Chinese cabbage and bean sprouts enhanced with steamed rice flavored with ginger

STUFFED seafood rigatoni

Novel cuisine

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Roger Carpio

NuVo updates its menu every three months to keep its guests coming back for new discoveries

FILIPINO diners have expectations, says NuVo executive chef Martin Bräcker, and his mission is to fulfill their expectations to the utmost.

It is in understanding the locals, their attitude and behavior at the dining table in particular, that the German kitchenmeister is able to experiment with Filipino food and whip up delightful treats for the Filipino palate.

Bräcker, in fact, has introduced Asian influences to the fine dining restaurant's chiefly French-Mediterranean cuisine.

Finding fresh dishes in NuVo, as regulars would attest, is in fact a regular event. The year-old resto updates its menu at least every three months, "otherwise, people come and don't have to see the menu anymore to know what they want," says Bräcker.

Of course, the stiff competition in the Greenbelt location also keeps NuVo on its toes.

Exploits

Before Bräcker came on board, NuVo was known for its classical cuisine courtesy of a popular Austrian chef.

Bräcker is grateful for NuVo chair Louie Ysmael's support for his own exploits in the kitchen.

"He has a lot of experience in the hospitality industry. He's been around and always likes to try new food," he says.

When Ysmael tastes something he likes in his travels, he asks Bräcker to come up with his own version using available ingredients.

And the chef is just too happy to oblige, admitting to a fascination for presenting usual recipes in different shapes and forms.

"Food," he notes, "is about increasing your knowledge of the preparation, and assembling different ingredients into new dishes."

He is excited every time he serves the chilled cylinder of smoked salmon with horseradish mousse and salad bouquet. It is served with a creamy mustard dressing that hints mildly of wasabi.

Another new round-shaped dish is the tower of green asparagus stuffed with scallops and grilled tiger prawns.

And an object of intense pride is the round, fortress-like Seafood Rigatoni Tower, the noodles stuffed with a variety of ingredients.

For all-out Asian inspiration, there's the grilled sea bass with soy jus served in a wooden dim sum steamer. The dish comes with a steamed roulade of Chinese cabbage and bean sprouts and ginger-flavored steamed rice.

Bräcker also takes a stab at a true-blue Filipino recipe with his version of the *adobo*, which he takes further by stuffing the deboned quail *adobo* with *balut* paté and serving it with *puto* (steamed rice cake).

For those who are intimidated by the idea of eating *balut* (aborted duck egg), his stuffing is "not the real thing," he stresses. "It's been processed and strained, so it's just the flavor." So far the response has been gratifying.

Of course, he has also heard comments like, "That's not how my *lola* makes it (*adobo*)," but Bräcker takes it all in stride.

"Every household or restaurant has a different recipe," he reasons. (That's also why NuVo calls its Caesar salad "Our Classic Way.") The bottom line for him is, patrons love his *adobo*.

Conscientious

While price is never an issue to most NuVo patrons, Bräcker is conscientious about giving them value for their money.

Trained in high-end Michelin-rated restaurants where people order three to four courses, the chef was bemused to learn that Filipinos delighted at being served big-portion side dishes.

NuVo's fine-dining portions, he shrugs, are just fine, and emphasizes the greater importance of not cutting corners when it comes to ingredients.

Bräcker bemoans the challenge of finding the finest ingredients at good prices. But for him, despite the pressure of maintaining the consistent quality of NuVo's food, diners' satisfaction still takes precedence.

Apart from the food, the chef credits NuVo's location for the restaurant's success. It directly faces Greenbelt Park. The classy interiors, courtesy of architect Conrad Onglao and interior designer Ivy Almario, also play a major part in luring people in. The interior lighting magically changes periodically, and it fascinates passersby, he says.

Though he admits it was hard to rein in some of the local staff when he first took charge (citing lame excuses for absences as an example), Bräcker takes pride that NuVo doesn't change its staff every six months.

"They are regular employees, so that makes it easier for them to handle daily operations," he says.

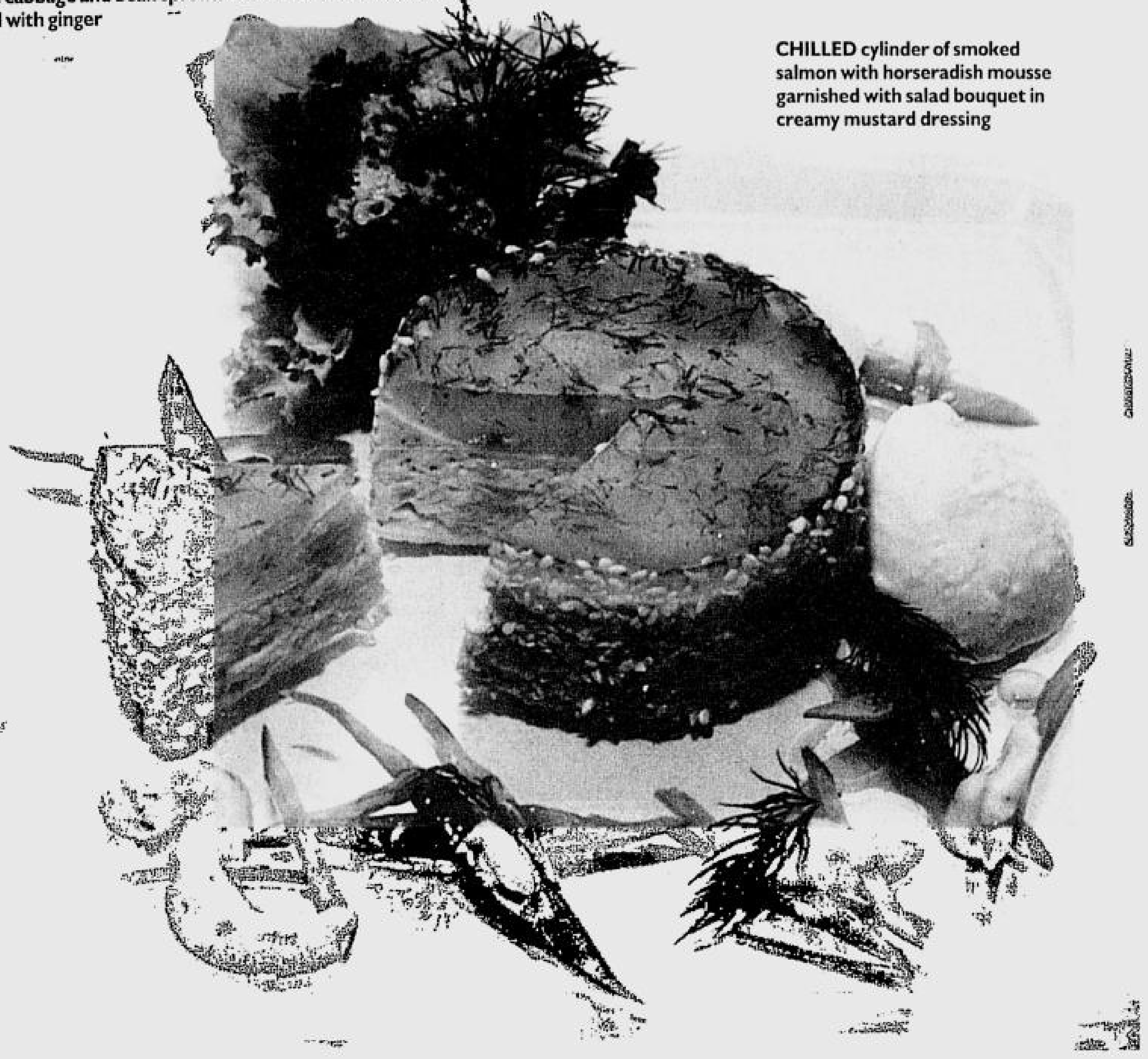
When the smoking ban was imposed in Makati, some of their regulars, mostly foreigners, trooped to Malate and other places. It made a dent on business, he admits, but stresses it was only a minor setback.

At the patio where smoking clients have been relegated, a bigger tent will be set up for the rainy season.

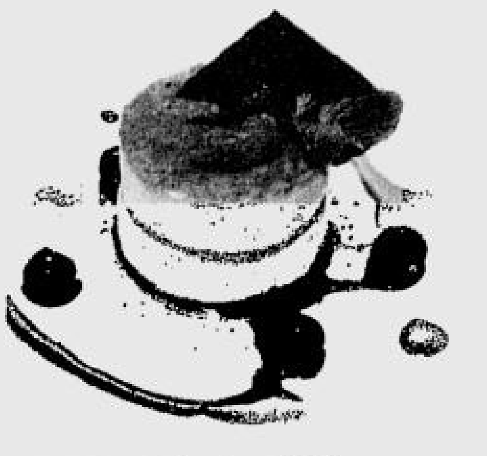
In the meantime, Bräcker's kitchen escapades continue...

NuVo Restaurant & Wine Bar is at Greenbelt 2, Makati. Call 7573698/99

E-mail cmoral@inquirer.com.ph


CHILLED cylinder of smoked salmon with horseradish mousse garnished with salad bouquet in creamy mustard dressing

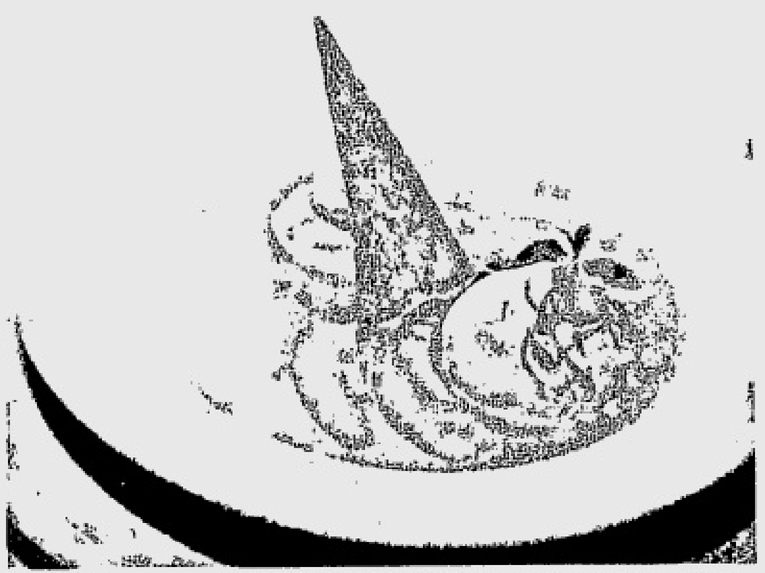
NUVO executive chef Martin Bräcker updates its offerings with eight new appetizers and salads, eight main courses and six desserts. Patrons need not fret: The favored classics remain on the menu.


CYLINDER of tiramisu with cherry ragout

VARIATIONS of Vahlrona chocolate: Blanc Vahlrona chocolate mousse perfumed with Malibu rum; mille feuille of Vahlrona Grand Cru Noir Manjari; and mini soufflé chocolate Vahlrona Lacté with fresh baby pineapple

GRILLED goose liver wrapped in filo pastry served on top of an apple carpaccio marinated in red port wine

TOWER of green asparagus stuffed with scallops and garnished with grilled tiger prawn and served with Champagne sauce


CHILLED orange soup served with vanilla panna cotta and vanilla ice cream

Homemade chocolate treats for the holidays

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

CHOCOLATE candies are so easy to prepare because you only need a stove, a thick saucepan and a freezer. In minutes you have a finished product. You can either serve it as a dessert or pack the candies in gift boxes all beribboned and ready for giving or selling.

Here we have basic recipes such as mixed nut clusters, molded chocolates and dipped mallows. The chocolate bars needed to make the candies can be bought in kitchen specialty stores. We also have them in our cooking school in half-kilo blocks. Food grade plastic molders in all shapes and sizes including packaging materials are available in Divisoria and in kitchen specialty stores. Try these recipes and make your own chocolate treats.

Mixed Nut Clusters

1 c assorted whole nuts such as walnuts, almonds, macadamia, hazelnuts, *kasoy* and *pili*

500 g semisweet baking chocolate, coarsely chopped

Combine the whole nuts in a mixing bowl. Set aside. Melt the chocolate in a thick saucepan over the lowest possible heat. Let cool for a few minutes.

Pour an adequate amount of melted chocolate over the nuts to hold them together. Mix well with a rubber scraper. Using teaspoons, form the mixture into clusters and arrange them in cookie sheets lined with foil or baking paper. Freeze briefly to set.

Reheat the remaining chocolate over the lowest possible heat. Using table forks or chocolate dipping forks, dip the chilled clusters in the melted chocolate a piece at a time. Tap against the edge of the saucepan to allow the excess chocolate to drip back to the saucepan. Arrange the dipped clusters in cookie sheets. Freeze again to allow the chocolate to set. Keep refrigerated.

Basic Chocolate Molding

500 g dark sweet/semisweet/bittersweet chocolate

chopped nuts

raisins

Chop the chocolate coarsely and transfer to a thick saucepan. Place over low heat and stir continuously to ensure that the chocolate melts properly. As soon as the chocolate is almost melted remove the saucepan from heat and continue stirring to allow the chocolate to melt completely.

Add nuts and/or raisins as desired. Spoon an adequate amount of the chocolate into chocolate molders or ice trays. Freeze for about 10 minutes to set. Freezing time will depend on the size of the molder. Unmold when set and keep refrigerated.

Chocolate Covered Mallows

500 g semisweet baking chocolate

20 pcs large marshmallows

Chop the chocolate into ½-inch pieces. Transfer to a large and heavy frying pan and place over low heat. Stir continuously until most of the chocolate has melted.

Turn off the heat and continue stirring until the chocolate has melted completely. Allow to cool down at room temperature for 5 minutes before starting the dipping process.

Dip the mallows one at a time using table forks. Retrieve immediately and transfer to cookie sheets lined with baking paper. Freeze briefly to allow the chocolate to set. Transfer to baking cups and keep chilled.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City and at the Julius Maggi Kitchen in Makati.

Call 7217735 or e-mail dorothycookingschool@yahoo.com

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Omelet with ham and bell pepper *Pandesal* Butter and cheese spreads Hot coffee or chocolate Papaya with yogurt	Chicken *kare kare* Rice Melon	Instant beef noodle soup Breaded porkchop with thousand island sauce *Guisadong chicharo* Rice *Buko* sherbet
TUESDAY	*Longganiza* Rice Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea Banana	Pan fried boneless bangus with brown gravy and mushrooms Vegetable chopsuey Rice Canned peaches with ice	Vegetable lasagna Garlic bread Turbo chicken wings Fresh fruit platter
WEDNESDAY	Cereal and milk Loaf bread Butter, coco jam, fruit jam Cheddar cheese Vienna sausage Hot coffee or fruit juice	*Tinolang manok* Rice Chilled *taho*	Clear soup Pork *menudo* Rice *Saba con hielo*
THURSDAY	*Champorado* Fried *danggit* or toasted *dilis* Cheddar cheese *Pandesal* Hot coffee or iced tea	*Paksiw na isda* *Guisadong ampalaya* with shrimps Rice Fruit gelatin	*Pancit bihon* *Lumpiang* shanghai Mango *sago*
FRIDAY	Fried egg *Tocino* Rice Hot coffee or chocolate Fresh fruit platter	Chicken *adobo* with quail eggs and mushrooms Rice *Minatamis na langka*	Canned cream of asparagus soup Roast beef Mashed potatoes with corn and spring onions Buttered string beans Homemade chocolates
SATURDAY	Plain *lugaw* Store-bought or homemade *siomai*, steamed chicken feet and century egg Hot or iced tea	Cucumber salad *Rellenong bangus* Rice *Mais con hielo* with cornflakes	Store-bought sashimi *Asohos* and *kalabasa* blossom tempura Chicken teriyaki Rice Green tea ice cream
SUNDAY	Gourmet *tuyo* *Kesong puti* Soft boiled eggs *Pandesal* Hot coffee or chocolate Fresh fruit platter	Tossed green salad with oriental vinaigrette *Pandan* lemon chicken Pork barbecue Java rice *Leche flan*	*Sinigang na manok* Thai basil beef Rice *Cuchinta*

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Make merry and money this Christmas

THE MAYA Kitchen Culinary Arts Center offers lessons that can help you launch a business this Christmas.

One-day special courses offered on Nov. 15 are Holiday Baking with Maya Mixes, 1:30–5 p.m. (includes lessons on how to make Food for the Gods, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Crema de Fruta, assorted brownies: Black Forest, Rocky Road, Carrot Cake, Choco-Banana Loaf and Brownie Meringue). To attend the class for free, present 10 box tops of 500-g packs of Maya hotcake or cake mix and 10 box tops of smaller packs of hotcake.

Also offered at 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on same day is Restaurant Operations. The course will cover kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory and restaurant work. Also to be taught are menu presentation and proven techniques for profitable service operations. Free lunch will be served.

From 9 a.m.-1 p.m. of the same day, the class on 7-day Curing Ham will also be conducted. Participants will learn how to make Chicken Ham, Pata Hamon and Pork Ham. As an early Christmas gift, Maya Kitchen will teach two bonus recipes: the Canadian Bacon and Pastrami.

Other classes: Baking I (Basic), Nov. 12-14 or 26-28, 1:30-5 p.m. To be taught are techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads, among others. This is a certificate course with hands-on for adults.

Pre-registration is required.

Visit the Maya Kitchen, Tuesday-Saturday, at the 8/L, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati, call 8921185, 8925011 local 108 or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

ENERGY FOR THE YUPPIE

EAT. SLEEP. Drink and be merry.

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Today's go-getters slave away at the office, their routines peppered with meetings, presentations and deadly deadlines. In an effort to counterbalance this grueling pattern, yuppies embrace R & R with a vengeance.

This 180° turn has young professionals trooping to their weekend Meccas - the latest "It" bar, rural retreats, or the no-brainer mall gimmick.

Such a work-hard-play-hard existence requires effort, effectiveness, and energy, con sidering that the average male professional needs 2,750-kilocalories (units of energy) daily. On the flip side, the average career woman requires 1,900.

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For the young urban professional who leads an extreme, vigorous, if not hedonistic lifestyle, **ENERVON** is a must. Eat. Sleep. Drink, work and be merry without the worry.

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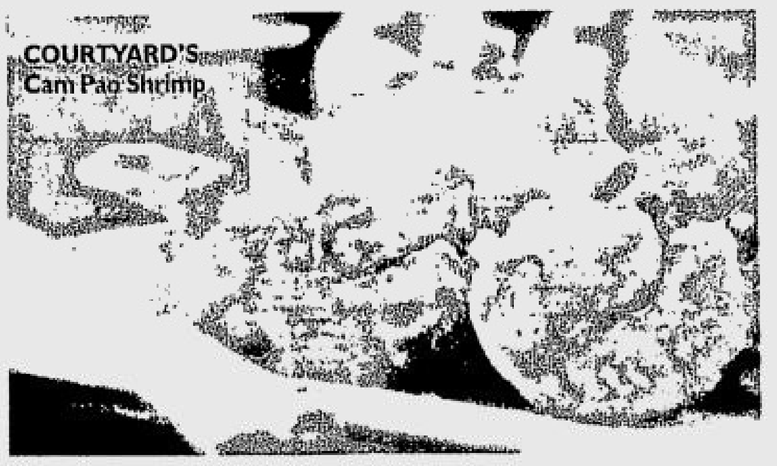
Japanese restaurant offers 12-dish set menu

DINING OUT

MAKATI Shangri-La's Inagiku restaurant features a Kaiseki set menu consisting of 12 dishes for lunch or dinner. These are Nameko Mushroom with Grated Radish, Japanese Cucumber with Moromiso, Boiled Chicken with Ginger Sauce, Marinated Salmon, Grilled Beef Roll in Teriyaki Sauce, Deep-Fried Small Shrimps, Steaming Clear Soup with Steamed Egg and Shimeji Mushroom, fresh slices of tuna, *lapulapu* and salmon sashimi, Grilled Sea Bass with Saikyo Miso, assorted mushroom served in a paper pan, Fried Prawns, *Asohos* and Vegetables and Green Tea Ice Cream. Call 8400884.


COURTYARD'S Cam Pao Shrimp

CASCADA in Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati offers Soup Shots of Cream of Water Spinach Soup, Trio of Mushrooms Soup and Baby Lobster Bisque, Skewer Sampler of Tuna Satay and Chicken Yakitori, Jasmine Rice, Deep-Fried Seafood Salad Maki and Concorde chocolate meringue cake.

GLOBAL Café by Store Super in Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati presents German, French, Italian and Spanish dishes. These include Beef Schublig, German Potato Salad, Salad Nicoise, Salad Lyonnaise, Filetto Al Burro, Linguini with wild mushrooms cooked in cream garlic sauce, Fusilli with grilled vegetable oil cooked in anchovy-garlic oil and Garlic Soup. Call 7574906/7281317.

COURTYARD offers Pork Brain Nuggets, Drunken Chicken, Squirrel Fish, Fresh Lapulapu in Soy Sauce, Com Pao Prawns, Shrimps Clear as Crystal, Fried Tofu, Braised Boneless Pork Knuckles and Crispy Chili Squid. Courtyard is located at 1820 Maria Orosa St., Malate, Manila. Call 5361924.

OUTBACK Restaurant offers party packages that include entree selections Grilled Pork Chop, Canberra Hamburger Steak, Porkloin, Grilled Chicken, Kookaburra Wings, Tassie's Pasta, Fish Fingers or Rangeland Ribs. There are also bonzer party packages for kids. Call Glorietta, 7298458; Alabang Town Center, 7221844/45; and Libis 6343801/6343742.

BINALOT offers many ways of preparing *longganiza*. Its Filipino-style sausages come from Pampanga, Lucban, Vigan and Palawan. Binalot is located at Robinsons Galleria, Shangri-La Plaza, SM Megamall, SM Makati and Ayala MRT station.

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- 1 bottle of 500 ml Perwoll Liquid Detergent and twelve 35 ml sachets of Vernel Fabric Softener when you buy American Home Single Tub or Twin Tub Washing Machine.
- 1 bottle of 500 ml SIDOL Kitchen Cleaner when you purchase any of the following: American Home Microwave Oven-Perfect 10, American Home Stainless Refrigerator, Bar Refrigerator or Profiline Gas/Electric Range.
- 1 can of 400 ml Sil Spray Starch for every purchase of American Home Flat Iron.

PROMO PERIOD: August 1, 2003 - May 15, 2004.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3272 Series of 2003.

AMERICAN HOME
Lifestyle
EXPO 2003

Christmas Rush at Lifestyle Expo 2003

Like the famous line in the Christmas carol goes, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." But for most of us, we can't take a hint. Why? Because this early, even when there are Christmas bazaars and midnight sales everywhere, Pinoys would still opt to hold on to their money until December 24 comes. Yes, most of us still like to rush and do a last minute Christmas shopping spree, which is the reason why tita gets the traditional mug every year, mom receives another bottle of her favorite perfume because you have convinced yourself that she won't like another brand, and sis gets another passé style blouse. And you honestly think that you'll still get the best gift? There's got to be a way to resolve the Christmas rush crisis.

So we suggest, don't start wrapping those mugs yet, because there's a big event waiting for you. It's the Lifestyle Expo 2003 happening at the Ayala Mall, Glorietta from November 13 to 19, 2003. AHAM Corporation, formerly known as CMTC International Marketing Corporation, and distributors of popular brands like American Home, Maytag, Magic Chef, and Profiline is once more, spearheading this exciting event. This year, Lifestyle Expo 2003 will showcase the latest lifestyle trends in home appliances, gadgets, accessories, and home furnishings that define today's contemporary way of life.

Among the exhibitors is American Home, one of the most trusted brands in home appliances. Introduced in the market three years ago, American Home adheres to its commitment in creating products of superior quality, durability, elegance, and functionality. Take your pick among American Home's most sought after homemaking partners:

Flexible 10-in-one Microwave system- who says microwave ovens are limited to reheating? With American Home's 10-in-one microwave oven, you're on your way to becoming an expert in the kitchen! The American Home microwave ovens boast of the Concave Reflex System or the CRS technology. With CRS technology, microwave ovens perform with as much as 56% less temperature variance and more even cooking. It even cuts defrosting time by 37% and cooking time by 34%. Each unit even comes with multi-power levels, pre-programmed one touch cooking, and electronic child safety locks. American Home's latest and top of the line model that's sure to catch your attention is the Perfect 10. And perfect it is, because it combines a microwave with three grills and convection oven, so there's more versatility in cooking. With it, you can go as easy as toasting and grilling your foods, to roasting, turbo broiling, baking, and even go as far as cooking rice or your favorite pizza!

Stainless Side-by-Side Refrigerators - Worrying where to store the Christmas goodies? The American Home Side-by-Side refrigerator is ready to accommodate that. With its huge 22.6 cubic feet capacity, this 100% frost-free refrigerator can store fresh food requirements for a week! Style and functionality meet their match in Side-by-Side's strong stainless steel doors, two sliding and one cantilever glass shelves, humidity control crispers, and chilled meat drawers. With its rapid ice and rapid freeze functions, you can have 3.6 Kg of ice in 24 hours and freeze meat or any food item, 33% faster than normal. Adding up its dependability is the built-in filtration system in the dispenser, providing you with ice and chilled water any time you want.

Heavy-duty Washers and Dryers – Your toughest washing needs are a cinch with American Home's line-up of top load washing machines, such as the 11kg AW-1050ST, the 10.5 kg Esprit AW-1100ST, and the 5.5 kg Esprit AW-550ST. These elegantly designed washers feature softly profiled, illustrious chip resistance steel cabinet complimented by a neat polypropylene top, while control knobs and buttons are equipped with multi-layer electrical protection for ultimate safety. Inside American Home's washers are powerful heavy-duty motors in their reliable transmission system. These, and an integrated metal brake and drive system assure of a worry-free and safe operation. And you're in control with their seven-wash programs that give complete wash action automatically and reliably, from start to finish.

These are just some of the great products that await you in the Lifestyle Expo 2003. And it doesn't stop there. Lifestyle Expo will also feature a 0% interest on selected items for credit card purchases, an American Home inventory sale, and as much as 40% off on selected items! Lucky patrons can also grab a hold of exciting freebies and giveaways.

So instead of squeezing through the shopping madness, save yourself the trouble and let your loved-ones enjoy the best gifts this year has to offer. Drop by at the Lifestyle Expo 2003 from November 13 to 19 and give the whole family a special Christmas treat they won't forget!

ADVT